Bengaluru Saturday, July 4, 2026 Pages 28 Vol 79 No 184 ₹8

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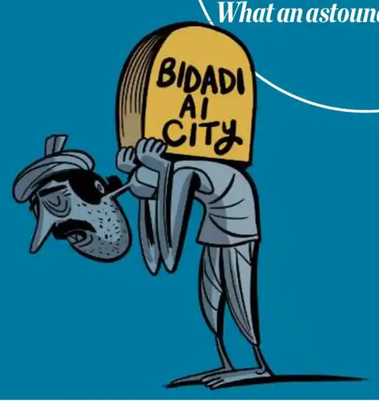
WHACKY VERSE

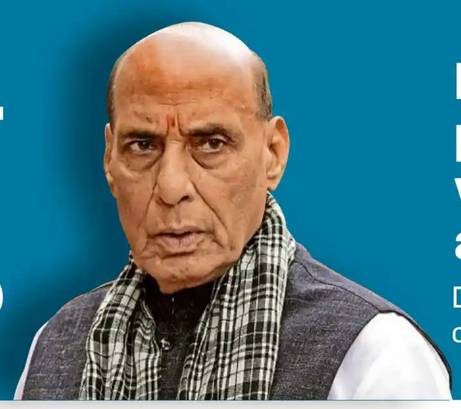
Chip blip

After HDK planned a township
Things slipped out of his grip.
'Building this as AI city?
Oh that's a monstrosity!'
What an astounding backflip!



DH *on* Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good



Defence procurement worth Rs 52k cr approved

DAC headed by Rajnath Singh okays proposals

P9

FOOTBALL HERO

Nagaland's forgotten legacy

Dr Talimeren Ao was the captain of independent India's first national football team. He hailed from Nagaland, a state whose love for football has few parallels. Despite the passion, the state has not produced another footballer for India's senior team since he hung up his boots in the 1950s. The *Saturday Story* explores why.

The SATURDAY STORY

Full story, Page 13

Quickly

Amid opposition, Tata Power withdraws electricity supply plan

After facing opposition from electricity supply companies (Escoms), farmers and power sector workers, Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) has withdrawn its application seeking licences for power distribution across 19 districts in Karnataka.

TPCL representatives appeared before the KERC on Friday and stated that the company was not interested in proceeding with the application.

Details on Page 3B

Nanny arrested for abusing toddlers in Capgemini

Bengaluru police on Friday announced the arrest of a 55-year-old woman caretaker over the alleged torture of toddlers at a daycare centre inside Capgemini's Brookefield campus.

Additionally, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told DH that daycare centres across the city would be inspected to ensure children's safety.

Details on Page 4

Govt, Ladakh groups agree on elected governing body

The Centre and Ladakh's civil society leadership on Friday reached a major breakthrough, agreeing in principle to create an elected Union Territory-level body with executive, financial and legislative powers – the first such consensus since Ladakh became a UT. The breakthrough comes weeks after talks hit a roadblock.

Details on Page 9

SIR: CEO orders house visits as Oppn cries foul

BJP, JD(S) claim govt aiding illegal immigrants

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukkumar instructed booth-level officers (BLO) on Friday to conduct door-to-door enumeration under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), as the Opposition accused the Congress government of facilitating the inclusion of illegal immigrants via mass enrolment camps.

The BJP and JD(S) released fresh videos showing mass enumeration camps being conducted instead of house-to-house visits. The Opposition claimed irregularities in Jayanagar, Mahadevapura, Byatarayanapura, Chamarajpet, Yeshwantpur, Sagar (Shivamogga) and Vijayapura among other places.

"...some complaints have been received alleging that BLOs are not visiting houses and [are] distributing the [enumeration] forms from offices," Anbukkumar stated. He asked all district election officers to ensure that BLOs go house to house with enumeration forms "and strictly adhere to directions and guidelines of the Election Commission of India".

Meanwhile, in a missive to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje accused the Congress government of "misusing" officers and "diluting" the SIR process. "Instead of carrying out the mandatory house-to-house verification, the SIR exercise is, in several places, being conducted through camps organised in community halls and other common locations," she stated. At a news conference, she released videos of such camps and accused the Congress of trying to legitimise Bangladeshi immigrants.

SIR STATUS REPORT

5,54,32,314
Total electors

2,01,24,411
Enumeration forms distributed

Coverage: 36.30%

The government has asked BLOs to take along with them only Congress' booth-level agents. The government's sole priority is the minority voters, who are being mobilised in one place for enumeration.

SHOBHA KARANDLAJE
Union minister

Stray cases can't be used for generalisation. We have asked our party workers to help all sections of society. The BJP is trying to make it a communal issue.

SALEEM AHMED
Karnataka Govt Chief Whip

Separately, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka claimed that there were 20 lakh Bangladeshis in Karnataka.

"The Congress is building a special highway for them. They are being enumerated near Haj Bhavans and mosques," he claimed. "In Mahadevapura and Byatarayanapura, groups are sitting in front of mosques and carrying out the SIR process," he said.

▸ SIR, Page 5

HC to aggregators: Deposit gig workers' welfare fees

Court restrains state from taking coercive action

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court on Friday directed app-based aggregators, who challenged the validity of the state's Gig Workers Welfare Act, to deposit welfare fees before it within three weeks.

The petitions were filed by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and platforms like Eternal Ltd (which runs BlinkIt and Zomato), Zepto, Swiggy, Urban Company and Valmo Transportation.

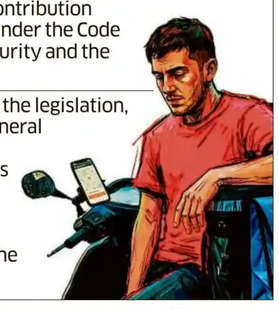
They challenged the constitutional validity of the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025 and allied rules. They argued that the state Act is repugnant with the Code on Social Security (COSS), 2020, passed by Parliament. The state Act conditions that aggregators pay 50 paisa per two-wheeler ride, 75 paisa per three-wheeler ride and Re 1 per four-wheeler ride. The funds will be managed by the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers Welfare Board.

The petitioners sought an interim order citing the board's notices asking them to pay welfare fees under Section 20 of the 2025 Act with proof of payment by July 5.

▸ Gig worker, Page 5

FUND FIX

- Petitioners argue that Code on Social Security passed by Parliament, consolidated the laws relating to social security for all employees and workers, including gig workers
- They claim to have filed representations to the state government with concerns about dual contribution obligations under the Code on Social Security and the state Act
- Defending the legislation, Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty argues that there is no conflict between the central and the state Acts



Punish guilty in Ram temple funds case: RSS

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Friday said the theft of Ram temple donations at Ayodhya had "deeply hurt the sentiments and faith" of devotees and urged stringent punishment for those found guilty.

Dattatreya Hosabale

Calling on the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust to address shortcomings in its management and operations, Hosabale, in a statement said the Ram temple had become "a centre of reverence, faith and devotion for the entire Hindu society" through the sacrifices and dedication of generations of devotees.

The RSS leader described the theft as an incident that had left society "extremely pained and angered".

▸ RSS, Page 5

Search for BU vice-chancellor raises questions

BENGALURU, DHNS

A former Bangalore University registrar (evaluation), whose tenure saw one of the biggest marks-tampering scams, is in the race to become its vice-chancellor.

The evaluation scam was reported between 2018 and 2021, where marks of over 800 degree students from various colleges affiliated to BU were tampered with.

This former official is from Kanakapura, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's constituency.

The tenure of the present Vice-Chancellor, Dr Jayakara SM, will end on July 10, and the search committee constituted to select the next vice-chancellor is scheduled to meet on Saturday.

The committee headed by former Hampi University vice-chancellor HC Boralingaiah also has Central University of Rajasthan Vice-Chancellor Anand Bhalerao (UGC nominee), former Atal Bihari Vajpayee University Vice-Chancellor Arun Diwaker Nath Bajpai (Governor's nominee) and former Gulbarga University Vice-Chancellor Dayanand Agsar (Syndicate nominee).

A total of 93 aspirants have applied for the BU vice-chancellor's position, according to the higher education department.

On January 5, 2021, DH had reported that an evaluation scam had been unearthed in BU.

This was based on a police complaint lodged by the then registrar (administration). As per the complaint, the marks of 804 students were allegedly tampered with. In the complaint, the registrar had suspected the involvement of university staff.

Subsequently, the university withdrew the results of 804 students.

THE ROAD MESS

When the city doesn't stop digging

Various agencies continue to dig up roads in Bengaluru, even in the monsoon season, causing traffic jams and chaos

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The city roads, which were supposed to be prepared to withstand the monsoons, are in a mess owing to projects undertaken by multiple agencies. Many roads are dug up by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to lay new pipelines, replace older ones, or carry out repair work. A few others have been dug up either by the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) or Bescom.

DH visited many such roads. Some of them were muddy, and excavators occupied the road lanes, posing challenges for commuters.

For instance, the Mathikere Main Road from the JP Park signal towards the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been dug up now just when the monsoon has hit the city.

"One side of the road is completely muddy now. It gets difficult to navigate through it during heavy traffic. Since it is one of the important connecting roads, it is unavoidable. Luckily, there have not been heavy rains after they dug up, and we are able to manage. Once heavy rains begin, it will be a challenge to navigate through the road," said Bhargav P, a resident of Mathikere.

The busy New BEL Road has also recently been dug up, and given that it sees heavy traffic, travel time has increased significantly and road conditions have deteriorated, commuters said.

"During peak hours, we have to wait three-four signals to pass the signal near MS Ramaiah Hospital. That is the kind of traffic this stretch sees. When such is the case, they have dug up one lane completely, making peak hour travel more hectic," said Pradyumna P, a daily commuter.

While it is inevitable that some minor repair work will be needed, since the pipelines and cables are prone to damage, citizens wondered why projects such as new pipeline laying or underground cabling cannot be undertaken either before or after the monsoon. Citizens fear that the situation could become dangerous once the city begins to receive heavy rainfall. "As is, the roads are filled with potholes. Driving, especially in a two-wheeler, is scary. To add to that, many roads are dug up so badly. This could lead to accidents since chances of skidding are high. Also, many of these spots are filled with water during heavy rains, and it is difficult to identify where the road is slushy unless we commute on the stretch frequently," said Hamsa V, a resident of Rajajinagar.

A TenderSURE stretch of the busy Richmond Road remains in poor condition with uncleared items taking up road space, after being dug up for underground pipeline work.
DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

BWSSB works are on a full swing on Nandi Durga Road, blocking a part of the carriageway. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

A road not restored after being dug up for manhole repair work by BWSSB at BEML Layout 3rd Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar.
DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

A road in Mattikere being dug up by the BWSSB for utility repair work.
DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Restoration a big problem

On many other roads, the work was completed months ago, but the roads have not been restored to good condition.

Nandidurga Road, which connects the cantonment with North Bengaluru, has been in a terrible condition for several months now. Regular commuters, as well as vehicles ferrying schoolchildren, are forced to take a detour through the interior roads, which have also been dug up.

Naveen Kempanahalli, a resident of Rajarajeshwarinagar, gives the example of the RR Nagar Main Road near YGR Mall, where KPTCL dug up the road for work and closed it before the monsoons. However, once the monsoon arrived, the poor quality of the work showed, creating humps and bulges on the road, he said.

A classic example of this is the Bannerghatta Main Road. The crucial stretch was neglected for months while the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) laid the pipeline. Many days after the works were completed, the city corporation carried out some patchwork on the stretch. However, just days after the corporation began restoration work, citizens complained that the repairs were not up to the mark and the stretch was difficult to navigate.

"First, we have to navigate through the mess for months when the BWSSB or other bodies are taking up work. Then, we have to wait for months for the authorities to restore the road. Then, with just one rain or just a few days later, the poor quality of work shows up again, forcing us to drive through bad roads," said Naresh S, a resident of JP Nagar.

The coordination between the city corporations and other agencies such as BWSSB, Bescom, and KPTCL has repeatedly come under scrutiny, with many citizens complaining that newly laid roads are often dug up by one agency or another.

Suchitra Deep, an architect based in Malleshwaram, says the road-cutting issue is perennial.

"The real problem is that once the work is done, they do not close it properly. This causes many humps and, eventually, potholes on the road. They become dangerous unmarked speedbreakers," she explains. In theory, white-topped and TenderSURE roads should ideally be free of road-cutting issues, as the conduits carry utility lines. But that is hardly followed, Suchitra said.

"In the case of Sampige Road in Malleshwaram, they dug the road again 5-6 days after white-topping it. There is no coordination between agencies," she said.

'Permission inevitable'

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials said that certain works must be permitted regardless of the season.

"We do request the agencies not to take up work in monsoon unless there is an emergency. However, sewerage lines and water pipelines are essential infrastructure. If sewage overflows onto the road, it poses a public health hazard. Similarly, water is a basic necessity, so we will have to allow some projects. We now ask them to complete the works at the earliest so that the road can be restored soon," said GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao.

Rao, however, acknowledged that there have been instances in which roads restored by other agencies have been found to be of poor quality, and hence the corporations were trying to explore alternative methods.

"There have been such cases where we have realised after rains that the roads restored by other agencies are of poor quality. Hence, we are now developing a system in which agencies will pay the respective corporations for road restoration, and the corporations will carry out the works. This will prevent such problems," he said.

Agencies respond

Senior KPTCL officials said that they normally restore the roads when they dig up.

"Sometimes, the city corporation tells us that there are other works planned on the road or the road is due for asphalting. In such cases, we do temporary repairs and pay up the corporation for complete restoration.

This might be the reason why some roads are in a poor condition," a senior KPTCL official said. "Many of these are not new works but works already approved in 2025- 26. Sometimes coordination and permissions for road cutting will take time. Hence, some works are beginning now," a senior BWSSB official said.

The official added that, following quality concerns, the BWSSB has now agreed to pay the city corporations for road restoration rather than restoring the road itself.

Feedback: pointblank@ deccanherald.co.in

METRO

UP man behind hoax bomb threat to Isro is mentally ill, say police

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru police have traced a 36-year-old man from Uttar Pradesh who allegedly sent a hoax bomb threat email to the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) headquarters in the city.

Sanjaynagar police picked up the suspect, Nishant Thyagi, from Ghaziabad on Thursday. According to police, he is suffering from a mental illness.

The email, sent to Isro's Antariksha Bhavan on New BEL Road on July 2, warned of a bomb blast at the headquarters.

Treating the threat seriously, Sanjaynagar police, along with the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS), conducted a thorough search of the premises, but found nothing suspicious. The threat was subsequently declared a hoax.

Based on a complaint filed by an administrative officer at the Isro headquarters, police launched an investigation and formed a special team to trace the sender.

Using technical analysis and digital evidence, the team tracked the email to Ghaziabad and travelled there to identify the suspect.

Police also seized the electronic device allegedly used to send the email.

During the investigation, police concluded that the sender was suffering from a mental illness. He was counselled and let off with a warning, police said.

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda during an inspection of the Outer Ring Road on Thursday night. PHOTO: KBG'S OFFICE

GBA to rework Rs 450-cr ORR plan as KBG insists on stakeholder review

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Rs 450-crore plan to revamp the Outer Ring Road (ORR) between Baiyappanahalli and Central Silk Board is likely to undergo changes after Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda decided to consult stakeholders before finalising the project.

The original proposal envisaged white-topping the 18-km stretch, extending the work already completed between Kasturinagar and Hebbal.

After a three-hour inspection of the corridor late on Thursday night, Gowda directed officials to convene a meeting with the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) and citizens' groups to seek their suggestions.

Ahead of the meeting, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) has been asked to digitally map all overground and underground utilities along the corridor. The minister is also keen on developing wider footpaths by creating dedicated underground utility ducts, sources said.

During the inspection, Gowda instructed officials to prepare junction-specific solutions to ease congestion. He directed them to expedite the construction of the new flyover at Iblur Junction and create a free left turn near Sun City Apartments to improve traffic flow.

At Doddanekkundi Junction, he asked officials to develop the space beneath the flyover on the lines of the Sivananda Circle flyover.

At Kodibeesanahalli Junction, the minister directed officials to prepare a model junction design and, as a pilot measure, install temporary kerbs to assess their impact on traffic movement. If successful, the design could be adopted permanently.

Along the Bellandur–Ecospace stretch, Gowda directed officials to shift a major BWSSB pipeline underground, develop the adjoining stormwater drain, widen the road and extend the existing skywalk to improve pedestrian connectivity to the service road.

At Lorry Junction, he instructed officials to identify and remove encroachments from footpaths, rectify low-hanging Bescom power lines that pose a risk to pedestrians, and repair the service road.

Invites to be published in these columns should be sent to: **incitytoday@ deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

BMLTA rules shield approved projects from fresh scrutiny

'Savings' clause exempts approved projects

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government on Friday operationalised the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) by notifying the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority Rules.

However, a 'Savings' clause in the rules effectively keeps several major mobility projects that have already secured the state government's approval — including the controversial Rs 17,780-crore tunnel road project and 125 km of elevated corridors—outside the authority's purview. The provision means such projects will not have to be placed before the newly constituted BMLTA for fresh appraisal, effectively limiting the role of the city's apex transport planning body even before it begins functioning.

The move also indicates that the government has retained the 'Savings' clause despite thousands of objections submitted by citizens when the draft rules were published in January. In addition, a few petitioners had approached the High Court, contending that the tunnel road project had bypassed mandatory BMLTA approval.

The rules, notified on July 2, lay down the framework for the functioning of the authority, including procedures for meetings, budgeting, audits and the appointment of members.

The most significant provision is Rule 24, titled 'Savings', which states that all previous decisions, plans, operations and pending proceedings undertaken after the commencement of the BMLTA Act and before the establishment of the authority shall be deemed to have been made under the Act.

The exemption assumes significance because the BMLTA was envisaged as a single authority to integrate transport planning across Bengaluru and evaluate major mobility projects involving multiple departments. By excluding previously approved projects, some of the city's biggest and most debated infrastructure proposals — including the tunnel road, elevated corridors and double-decker corridors—will remain outside the authority's oversight.

Independent mobility expert Satya Arikutharam said the rules undermine the core objective of the BMLTA Act. "Rule 24, which citizens opposed vehemently, is now law. This means bad Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) and Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) projects are deemed BMLTA-approved," he said.

Now, GIS dashboard to curb rampant road-digging across city

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to end the recurring problem of roads being dug up by multiple agencies, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has decided to develop a GIS-based digital road history dashboard that will require all departments to upload their annual action plans, enabling better coordination before works are taken up.

The decision was taken at the GBA's second executive committee meeting, chaired by Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Friday.

"The objective is to establish a coordination mechanism so that agencies work in tandem instead of functioning in silos," Gowda said after the meeting.

He said the unified GIS-based digital platform will integrate information on roads, road history, underground utilities, streetlights and ongoing infrastructure works across departments.

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda at the executive committee meeting on Friday.
PHOTO: KBG OFFICE

The platform will also enable citizens to report civic issues such as potholes and track the progress of corrective action.

The committee — comprising senior officials from the city's five municipal corporations, BWSSB, Bescom, BMTC, Namma Metro, BDA, K-RIDE, traffic police and other government agencies — was constituted under the GBA Act to improve coordination among agencies executing infrastructure projects in Bengaluru.

The minister said newly laid roads are often dug up within months because departments work without adequate coordination or information sharing. "All agencies have been instructed to upload their proposed works and annual action plans onto the common platform before execution," he said.

The committee will meet every month to review the progress of infrastructure projects and resolve inter-departmental issues. "We will take up issues related to traffic management, last-mile connectivity and the execution of major infrastructure projects," Gowda said.

Mystery breakdowns plague city electric rickshaws

BENGALURU, DHNS: Over the past week, a handful of vehicles powered by batteries, especially electric rickshaws, have reported unexplained malfunctions in the city.

This comes in light of a recent trend, which allegedly utilised particular Chinese battery management applications to remotely disable rickshaws that run on batteries.

On Friday, the Centre officially banned three Chinese battery management applications — BAT-BMS, Lossigy and Epoch-i-ion — after similar complaints surfaced, especially in northern India.

However, drivers in the city said they had been unable to establish whether the glitches were caused by software interference or routine technical faults.

Manoj Kumar, an electric auto driver in the city, said, "For the first time in two years since I got my e-rickshaw, it broke down in the middle of the road last week. This happened twice last week."

"I have been unable to find any technical glitches, so it was odd. After I saw social media posts about the prank youngsters were pulling on an auto driver, I assumed the two could be connected."

A few older electric bikes, too, faced similar issues.

'No link yet'

Tanveer Pasha, president, Ola Uber Drivers and Owners' Association, said, "Last week, there was some talk about such incidents. We have not been able to link them to the pranking trend."

The incident has drawn attention to vulnerabilities in battery management systems used in some low-speed EVs, as these units often use Bluetooth connectivity for battery diagnostics and monitoring. If left unsecured or configured with default settings, they could potentially be accessed by unauthorised users within range.

सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Civil Aviation
Government of India

A New Decade of Regional Air Connectivity Begins

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Launch of the Next Phase of

UDAN
(Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik)

Worth around ₹ 29,000 Crore

By

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Features and Benefits of the Scheme

- Development of **100 New Aerodromes** at ₹12,159 Crore, enhancing remote and regional air connectivity
- Construction of **200 heliports** at ₹3,661 Crore in hilly and aspirational districts across India
- **Viability Gap Funding** of ₹10,043 Crore to support airline operations on regional routes sustainably and ensure affordable air travel
- **O&M support** to aerodromes at ₹2,577 Crore for safety, efficiency, and continuous operations
- **Aatmanirbhar Aircraft Acquisition** of HAL Dhruv helicopters and Dornier aircraft to strengthen indigenous regional aviation capabilities
- Boost to trade, tourism and regional economy, opportunities for growth of **new airlines** and aviation start-ups

in the august presence of

Shri Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde
Governor, Rajasthan

Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma
Chief Minister, Rajasthan

Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu
Union Minister of Civil Aviation

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
Union Minister of Culture;
and Tourism

Shri Murlidhar Mohol
Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation;
and Cooperation

Saturday, 04th July, 2026 | 10:45 Hrs. | Jodhpur Airport, Rajasthan

DD NEWS Watch the event live on DD News

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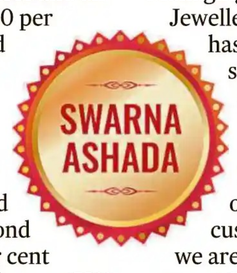
GRT Jewellers announces special ashada offers

Recognised as one of India's most trusted jewellery brands, GRT Jewellers has announced its special Ashada campaign, bringing festive offers across its jewellery collections. The brand operates 68 showrooms, including 67 across South India and one in Singapore, offering gold, diamond, platinum, silver and gemstone jewellery.

As part of the campaign, GRT Jewellers has introduced the Swarna Ashada offer in Karnataka and the Swarna Ashadam offer in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Customers can avail Rs 200 off per gram on gold jewellery purchases and an additional Rs. 150 per gram on old gold exchange. The campaign also includes a 12.5 per cent discount on the value of diamond and uncut diamond jewellery, 25 per cent off on wastage charges (VA) for silver articles, and 10 per cent off the MRP of silver jewellery. The offers are available for a limited period and are subject to terms and conditions.



Speaking about the campaign, GR 'Anand' Ananthapadmanabhan, Managing Director, GRT Jewellers, said, "Ashada has always been a significant shopping season, and every year we celebrate the occasion by bringing special offers for our customers. This year, we are delighted to present Swarna Ashada with attractive benefits across our jewellery collections. Through these exclusive offers, we hope to make our customers' purchases even more rewarding while continuing to provide the quality, craftsmanship and trust that GRT Jewellers is known for."

GR Radhakrishnan, Managing Director, GRT Jewellers, added, "We invite customers to make the most of these limited- period Ashada offers and explore our extensive range of jewellery collections featuring timeless classics and contemporary designs. The continued trust of our customers has enabled us to grow to 68 showrooms, and these festive offers are our way of expressing gratitude for their support."

Curated by DH Brandspot

Private schools want per child expenditure for RTE students revised

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Associated Management for Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka has sought a revision in the per child expenditure reimbursed in fees for the students admitted under the 25% quota to private schools under the Right To Education (RTE) Act.

Association general secretary D Shashi Kumar pointed out that, while private schools were being reimbursed for RTE admissions in the state since 2013-14, the per child expenditure had not been revised since 2017. Alleging that false information was being furnished to the courts, Kumar added, "The Per Child Expenditure has not been revised."

Schools were forced to shift the financial burden of the reduced fees that they were receiving for the RTE students on the remaining 75% students, said Kumar. "Schools are grappling with a severe financial crisis, as a result," he added.

Pointing out that budgetary allocation to the School Education Department had risen from Rs 25,000 crore to Rs 45,000 crore in the past 13 years, Kumar said, "Nearly Rs 80,000 to Rs 1.3 lakh is being expended on each child. But in the records submitted to the court, the figures mentioned are Rs 8,000 to Rs 16,000."

While the sum being provided for nursery students is Rs

8,000, it is Rs 16,000 for those in classes one to eight.

Although funds for RTE were being disbursed by as many as 138 sources across the state and central governments, only five found mention in the records, said the association. "If the state government submits accurate information to the court, it will result in the RTE per child expenditure being revised. The government must calculate and officially publish the revised Per Student Expenditure for 2026-27, and release the pending amount without delay," said Kumar.

Taking it to the court

The association said that the inaccurate records submitted by the Education Department would be brought to the notice of CM D K Shivakumar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A case will also be filed in the court questioning the false information furnished by the department

POCSO case accused who escaped police custody arrested again

KALABURAGI, DHNS: A 23-year-old man arrested in a POCSO case who had given police the slip and escaped their custody on Thursday was apprehended again on Friday.

Manjunath Ingale (23), who was arrested for allegedly kidnapping a 16-year-old girl, escaped from the Afzalpur police station on Thursday. Superintendent of Police Adduru Srinivasalu suspended three cops for dereliction of duty and negligence.

Ingale allegedly eloped with the girl to Pune. A police team brought them to the Afzalpur station on Wednesday evening. From the second floor of the station, Ingale climbed onto a low-hanging tree branch, and escaped the clutches of the cops. Police on Friday arrested him in a field near Tellonigi village in the taluk.

Govt to appoint Smaraka Mitras for upkeep of heritage sites

Archaelogy dept to manage 250 unprotected monuments

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Tourism Department plans to appoint 'Smaraka Mitras', multi-tasking personnel responsible for maintaining heritage sites, assisting in their upkeep and providing visitors with accurate historical and cultural information to enhance their overall experience.

As part of its conservation efforts, the department has also taken over the management of 250 of the more than 1,000 unprotected monuments in Karnataka, aiming to improve their maintenance, strengthen preservation measures, and promote them as heritage tourism destinations.

According to the Directorate of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, the state has over 844 legally state protected monuments and more than 1,000 unprotected monuments.

Smaraka Mitras will be assigned based on the requirements of each village with historical monuments. District tourism officials have been instructed to confirm the number of monuments and personnel needed, following which the department will get an approval from the Finance Department to appoint them on a contract basis.

The 2026-27 budget announced accrediting 1,000 Smaraka Mitras to oversee the state's tourist footprint.

For appointment as Smaraka Mitras, the age limit is 18-45 with at least pre-university qualification with history as one of core subjects. The selected candidate will also undergo training by the department. Each Smaraka Mitra will be posted in their respective district so that they are well aware of the history of the monuments.

A Devaraju, Commissioner for Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, told *DH*, "In the next few months, we plan to complete the appointment of Smaraka Mitras. We also have the antiquities survey to discover more monuments across the state. The scheme protects the monument and provides employment to people."

The antiquities survey is a village-to-village mapping of archaeological remains across the state.

In 2023, the government launched an adopt-a-monument scheme, which lets people adopt monuments. Around 25 monuments have been adopted so far.

A view of the Malkhed Fort in Kalaburagi's Sedam taluk. DH PHOTO

Coffee table book on rare historical sites

The archaeology department has released a coffee table book 'Ancient Karnataka Uncovered: the Visual Chronicles of Karnataka's Prehistory', covering rare, lesser-known and fragile historical sites across the state. This volume dives into prehistoric and proto-historic eras spanning thousands of years.

A DEVARAJU
Commissioner for Archaeology, Museums and Heritage

"In the next few months, we plan to complete the appointment of Smaraka Mitras. We also have the antiquities survey to discover more monuments across the state. The scheme protects the monument and provides employment to people

ADB approves Rs 2k crore for school education in state

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved Rs 2,000 crore loan for strengthening of the school education system in the state, specially for development of Karnataka Public Schools (KPS).

Under this, 500 KPS clusters will be upgraded with modern infrastructure, STEAM education, teacher training and others.

In the official press release, the ADB stated, "The loan to help to strengthen the public school system in Karnataka, expanding access to high quality learning and improving academic performance for more than a million students, including female and disadvantaged learners."

Utilising this fund, the state government will establish 500 integrated KPS clusters that provide seamless education from primary to pre university. The recently announced Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) education will be introduced at these schools.

The programme will also introduce industry aligned skill modules and integrate principles of social inclusion and protection of women and girls into a modern life skills curriculum to better prepare students for future employment.

"The programme will help Karnataka build future-ready public schools, especially in underserved areas that give students stronger foundations, better learning opportunities, and clearer pathways to jobs and higher education," said ADB Country Director for India Mio Oka.

Reacting to the ADB's loan approval, former school education and literacy minister Madhu Bangarappa said, "ADB providing nearly Rs 2,000 crore to Karnataka's public education system is not just financial support, it is a sign of global confidence in our education system. It is international recognition of the transparent governance, examination reforms, expansion of the KPS model, and child-focused policies that our government has implemented over the last three years."

He further stated, "Our goal is not just to ensure that every child studying in a government school gets the same opportunities as a child in a private school but also receive world-class quality education. This recognition further strengthens our commitment to the vision."

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: SBC-KVLRRMGM-SET Dated: 30.06.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
1) Provision of additional Loop Line at Karuvalli (KVLR) Station with necessary alteration to existing EI of HITACHI Make. 2) Provision of dual VDU with necessary alteration to the existing EI of HITACHI Make at Ramanagaram (RMGM) and Settihally (SET) Stations of Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 4,65,16,502.70/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 23.07.2026**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Bengaluru
PUB/257/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
PUB/419/26
Tender Notice No: 2A-ST-26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB
Sr.DEE/M/HYB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tenders Closing date **28.07.2026, 15:00 Hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Sl.No.: 1, **Description of work : Tender No.** 2A-ST -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB: Hyderabad division: Provision of 24x7 Central Monitoring System setup at Divisional Head Quarters in connection with the work of South Central Railway-Upgradation of KAVACH version 3.2 to 4.0 in low density routes in the existing KAVACH territory - Electrical arrangement. **Approx. Cost (₹):** ₹1,50,00,514/-, **EMD (₹):** ₹3,00,000/-, **Completion period :** 6 Months, **Date of Closing:** 28.07.2026
Website particulars: **www.ireps.gov.in**
Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen: Office of the Sr.DEE/M/HYB, Hyderabad Bhavan, Secunderabad-500071
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/M/ Hyderabad
Tender Notice No. 19-OEW-26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB
PUB/420/26
Sr.DEE/M/HYB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tenders Closing date **28.07.2026, 15:00 Hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Sl.No.: 1, **Description of work : Tender No.** 19-OEW-26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB: Hyderabad Division- Rail Nilayam: Proposal for replacement & relocation of old existing panels with new LT panels in Rail Nilayam substation. **Approx. Cost (₹):** ₹2,24,60,898/-, **EMD (₹):** ₹4,49,200/-, **Completion period :** 9 Months, **Date of Closing:** 28.07.2026
Website particulars: **www.ireps.gov.in**
Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen: Office of the Sr.DEE/M/HYB, Hyderabad Bhavan, Secunderabad-500071
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/M/ Hyderabad
A490
For further tender conditions/ details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF HERITAGE
(Deemed to be University)
A-19, Sector 62, Noida - 201 309
NOTICE
July 1, 2026
All prospective applicants and students are hereby informed that the last date for submission of applications for MA admission has been extended to 6th July 2026.
CBC 09103/11/0002/2627 **REGISTRAR INCHARGE**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 22/2026 Date: 30.06.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
01	42261152	Cylindrical Fuse (with holder) 3 Amps, 1.2 KA, Size 8x50 mm for Voltage confirming	7861 Nos.	15.07.2026
02	17261463	Duct Assembly Air Traction Motor	239 Nos.	17.07.2026
03	79261040	Fire Retardant Curtain Fabric for all A.C. Coaches	13276 Nos.	21.07.2026
04	60265163	Manufacture and supply of 10 mm thick Composite Grooved Rubber Sole Plate	509407 Nos.	24.07.2026
05	33261244A	Gangway bridge mounting assembly	1223 Nos.	03.08.2026

For Tender No. 60265001 of **Notice No. 20/2026**, the Due Date for opening of tender changed from **30.06.2026 to 10.07.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi
PUB/254/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
APPLICATION NOTIFICATION No. 565/M-UTS Sahayak/SBC/2026
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru Division, South Western Railway, Bengaluru - 560 023 on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications from **Retired Railway Employees / General Public** of Bangalore Division for Engagement **as M-UTS Sahayak** at the following stations over Bengaluru (SBC) Division for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through M-UTS on recharge bonus basis for a period of one year or till 30.06.2027 whichever is earlier:

Name of the Station	Number of Vacancy
KSR Bengaluru City	09
Yesvanthpur	07
Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bengaluru	06
Kengeri	04
Bangarpet	04
Krishnarajapuram	06

Date & time of submission of application	From 10.00 hrs. to 15:00 hrs. of 06.08.2026
Date & time of opening of application	15:05 hrs. of 06.08.2026

The application form, eligibility criteria and other details can be downloaded from website: **www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in**
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ Bengaluru Division
PUB/255/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela (Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221
E-Tender No: RWP-WFPS-CNC-VTL-2026 "Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/ WFPS/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites online "e-Open Tender" through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in** for following work. 1. Name of work with its location and completion period: **Operation and Comprehensive Maintenance of VTL Machine 19 & 20 through outside agency for machining of BGC, BLC, EMU & BOXN wheel for 3 years at RWP Bela as per scope of work.** 2. Approx. cost of the work: **Rs. 15,90,45,120.00/-** 3. Earnest Money to be Deposited: **Rs. 31,80,900.00/-** 4. Cost of tender document: Nil. 5. Pre-Bid Conference Date Time: N/A. 6. Tender closing date and time: **23.07.2026, 11.00 hrs**. 7. Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc: E Tender No. **RWP-WFPS-CNC-VTL-2026** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in**. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (**www.ireps.gov.in**) for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum /Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/ information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.
For Dy. CME/WFPS/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2026-27/43

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)
(Human Resources Division -II)
HEAD OFFICE, GATE NO.10 (EAST GATE), JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003
File No. 01-04001(02)/2/2026-66 **Date: 25-06-2026**
ENGAGEMENT TO THE POST OF JUNIOR ENGINEER ON LPD MINUS PENSION BASIS
The Sports Authority of India (SAI), an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, invites online applications from eligible retired Government officers for engagement to one (01) post of Junior Engineer on LPD Minus Pension Basis.
The schedule for submission of online applications is as under:
- Opening Date for Submission of Online Applications: 25.06.2026
- Closing Date for Submission of Online Applications: 24.07.2026

The detailed advertisement, eligibility conditions, terms of engagement, application proforma and other instructions are available on the SAI website **www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in**.
CBC 47103/11/0015/2627

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)
(Human Resources Division -II)
HEAD OFFICE, GATE NO.10 (EAST GATE), JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003
File No. 01-04001(02)/2/2026-66 **Date: 25-06-2026**
RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF JUNIOR ENGINEER IN SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
The Sports Authority of India (SAI), an Autonomous Organisation under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, invites **online applications** from shortlisted candidates identified through the SSC JUNIOR ENGINEER (Civil & Electrical) Examination **Public Disclosure List (PDL) 2024** for appointment to the post of **JUNIOR ENGINEER** on a **regular basis.** The online application portal shall remain open as per the following schedule:-
- **Opening Date:** 26.06.2026 (10:00 AM)
- **Closing Date:** 10.07.2026 (05:00 PM)

Only the shortlisted candidates identified through the SSC JUNIOR ENGINEER (Civil & Electrical) Examination **Public Disclosure List (PDL) 2024** are eligible to apply.
The detailed notification, eligibility criteria, instructions and the online application link are available on the SAI website **www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in**.
For any recruitment-related queries, candidates may write to **hrd2.sai@gov.in**.
CBC 47103/11/0017/2627

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)
(Human Resources Division -II)
Head Office, J N Stadium Complex, Gate. No.10, Lodhi Road, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003
File No. 01-04001(03)/7/2026-66 **Date: 10-06-2026**
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (FINANCE) ON DEPUTATION BASIS
The Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, invites applications for one post of Executive Director (Finance) in Pay Matrix Level-13A on deputation basis for a period of 3 years. Eligible officers may submit applications in the prescribed format, along with required documents, to the O/o Director (Human Resources Division-II), SAI, J.N. Stadium Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003. Last date for receipt of applications is 10-07-2026 (5:00 PM). Detailed advertisement, eligibility criteria, proforma and instructions will be available on the SAI website **(www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in)**.
CBC 47103/11/0016/2627

No. A-12011/1/2025-ESTT
Government of India
Ministry of Steel
2202, Zone-2 GPOA - 3 Netaji Nagar, New Delhi - 110023
Last date of receipt of applications is 60 days from the date of publication of this Advertisement in the Employment News.
Applications are invited from eligible officers for filling up the following posts in the Ministry of Steel:
1. Joint Industrial Adviser - 01 post (Pay Level-12 as per 7th CPC) to be filled by Composite Method - Deputation including Short Term Contract or Promotion - from officers under the Central or State Governments or Union territories or Public Sector Undertakings or recognised Research Institutions or Universities or Statutory or Autonomous Organisations.
2. Deputy Industrial Adviser - 02 posts (Pay Level-11 as per 7th CPC) to be filled by Deputation including Short Term Contract from officers under Central or State Governments or Union territory Administrations or Public Sector Undertakings or Universities or recognised Research Institutions or Autonomous bodies or Statutory organizations.
For detailed information please visit our website [https://steel.gov.in/vacancy]
(K. Thangminlal)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
CBC 40101/11/0001/2627

KEA to accept revised Class 12 marksheets for 3 days from today

BENGALURU DHNS: The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has directed CET candidates from the CBSE and ISCE boards, whose Class 12 marks were revised, to submit their updated marksheets for verification.

Following requests from several students whose marks were revised after revaluation, the KEA, which had earlier refused to consider the revised marks, has decided to do so and award revised ranks.

As per the notification issued by the KEA, students whose marks have changed can submit the revised mark cards to the KEA office in Malleswaram, Bengaluru between July 4 and 6.

"We will verify the revised marks through the DigiLocker account and update their rank. Applications will be accepted even on Sunday (July 5)," said the notification.

The KEA notification added that all students who have a change in their Class 12 scores must inform KEA, including those who receive lower marks after re-evaluation. "The ranks will be changed even for those whose marks have been lowered. If they don't inform us now, they will have to face problems during admission," KEA said.

Govt extends last date for police constable job applications

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has extended the last date for applying for Civil Police Constable (CPC) vacancies.

Candidates can now submit online applications until 4 pm on July 8. They will also be allowed to make corrections to their applications between July 9 and July 12, Home Minister Priyank Kharge said.

The recruitment process, conducted in association with the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), has received 2,80,216 applications for Armed Police Constable posts and 59,309 applications for posts in the Kalyana Karnataka region, he said.

Kharge said the government had introduced a transparent and technology-driven recruitment system.

Amid opposition, Tata Power withdraws electricity supply plan

KERC had received 20 lakh objections

BENGALURU, DHNS

After facing opposition from electricity supply companies (Escoms), farmers and power sector workers, Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) has withdrawn its application seeking licences for power distribution across 19 districts in Karnataka.

TPCL representatives appeared before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) on Friday and stated that the company was not interested in proceeding with the application.

"They did not cite any reasons. They made a statement and KERC accepted it," a source privy to the matter said.

The Karnataka State Licensed Electrical Contractors' Association (KSLECA) said the decision would set an example for the future.

"From farmers to contractors to employees of the energy department, all of us fought this relentlessly. Privatisation does not help anyone and only causes harm. We are relieved that the company decided to withdraw the application. This will set an example," said KSLECA president Ramesh C.

According to sources, the KERC had received nearly 20 lakh objections opposing TPCL's entry into the power distribution sector.

TPCL takeover proposal

Bescom: Chikkaballapur, Ramanagara, Bengaluru rural, Kolar, Tumakuru and Chitradurga

Mescom
Shivamogga, Dakshin Kannada and Udupi

Hescom
Belagavi, Uttar Kannada and Dharwad

CESC
Mysuru, Hassan and Chamarajanagar

Gescom
Ballari, Raichur Kalaburagi, and Yadgir

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) employees and electrical contractors also protested the move, stating that the entry of private players into the power distribution sector would result in job losses and affect social welfare schemes.

The argument was that private players would pick and choose high-revenue establishments, leaving out low-revenue consumers to state-run Escoms. And since Escoms have a social obligation to serve everyone, they would have to continue serving only low-revenue groups, resulting in losses.

Escoms also pointed out that they had entered into power-purchase agreements anticipating the increase in demand over the next few years and noted that the entry of a private player would change the situation.

The state cabinet also decided to oppose the entry of private players into the power sector. On Thursday, after a cabinet meeting, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said that Escoms would convey the government's decision to KERC.

Father can't have visitation rights if he won't bear child's responsibility: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has said that when a father is not ready to take up his child's responsibility financially and emotionally, he cannot interfere in the child's life for visitation again.

Justice P Sree Sudha said this while allowing the petition filed by the child's mother.

The woman, a resident of Bengaluru, challenged a January 2026 order passed by the family court under the Guardian and Wards Act, granting visitation rights to her former husband regarding her five-year-old son. She stated that the Bangalore Mediation Centre dissolved their marriage by way of settlement on September 24, 2024. One clause of the settlement was that the wife would continue as the permanent custodian and guardian of the child. The husband had no objection to this and gave up his visitation rights.

The husband, who is already remarried, approached the family court, filing an application under the Guardian and Wards Act. The family court granted him visitation rights and directed him to pay 50% of the educational expenses.

However, the wife contended that the child is receiving good care and quality education in a safe and nurturing environment. She further submitted that the criminal complaint filed against the husband under IPC sections 307, 498A, 506 and 201 was also withdrawn in view of the settlement.

Justice Sree Sudha noted that the family court had granted visitation rights to the husband without considering the clauses in the settlement. "Both the parties settled the matter before mediation and father of the child voluntarily and cautiously gave up his rights for visitation and is not permitted to again commence litigation after one year. It is stated by the petitioner-mother that she never sought for maintenance but only asked the family court to declare her as the permanent custodian for the welfare of the minor child. Therefore, this court finds that the order of the family court is not based on proper appreciation of facts and is liable to be set aside," the court said.

Caste disclosure not mandatory for Gruha Jyothi: Bescom

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) on Friday clarified that caste certificates were not mandatory to get benefits of the Gruha Jyothi scheme.

On July 1, the energy department started reverifying beneficiary details to prevent the scheme's misuse. Among other documents, it asked beneficiaries to submit caste certificates and ration cards.

This created confusion, with residents fearing they could be left out of the scheme for lacking caste certificates.

A Bescom statement said entering the beneficiary's category (caste certificate details) was "purely optional". "If a beneficiary does not wish to share their caste details, field staff have already been instructed to select the 'refused to provide information' option available in the mobile application," it added.

Helpline

Bescom has also set up a dedicated helpline to address queries about data collection and verification under the scheme.

The helpline will operate between 6 and 10 pm. The numbers are 9480816111, 9480816112, 9480816113, and 9480816114.

POCSO case: Harihar seer's bail plea hearing adjourned

DAVANGERE, DHNS

The special POCSO court has adjourned the hearing of a bail plea by Vachanananda Swami of the Harihar-based Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Gurupeetha in a POCSO case

S V Patil, the counsel for the seer, sought bail for his client. The prosecutors filed objections to the petition filed by the seer.

After they sought time to present their arguments, the court adjourned the hearing till Saturday.

The victim's mother had filed a separate counter-petition asking the court not to grant bail to the seer. Her counsel is likely to present his arguments on Saturday or Monday.

A POCSO case has been registered against the seer at the Harihar Rural Police Station on charges of sexually abusing a 16-year-old boy. Earlier, the seer had obtained anticipatory bail.

The same was cancelled after the victim boy's mother approached the High Court.

AIR FORCE SCHOOL ASTE
GV Camp, Murugeshpalya, Bengaluru-560 017
(Ph:080-25276920/ 25272332)
INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSTS OF

Ser No	Post	No. of Vacancies	Nature of Appointment
1	PGT – (Physical Education)	01	Regular
2	Computer Lab Attendant	01	Regular/ Contractual Panel
3	Helpers – Male/ Female	01	Contractual and Panel

Details of qualifications and documents required to be checked on **www.afsaste.edu.in.** Hard copies of resume/CV, along with copies of education and experience testimonials, Aadhaar card, PAN card, one passport size photograph and covering letter stating the post applied for with complete contact details (i.e. present address, mobile nos, email id) should be submitted/ posted to **Air Force School ASTE, GV Camp, Murugeshpalya, Bengaluru-560017.**

Last date of receipt is 18 July 2026 upto 1200 hrs.

School Management Committee (SMC) reserves the right of cancelling the selection process at any stage even after the advertisement without any notice or assigning any reason. Shortlisted candidates will be notified about the dates of the selection process through **e-mail only.**

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IMPORTANT DATES
REGISTRATION OPENS — 29th JUNE 2026 AT 11:00 HRS
REGISTRATION CLOSES — 30th JULY 2026 AT 17:00 HRS

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

S. NO.	DATE	PAPER/BOOK NO.
1	25th SEPTEMBER 2026	1st, 2nd
2	26th SEPTEMBER 2026	3rd, 4th
3	27th SEPTEMBER 2026	5th, 6th (BUILDING)

CBC 34106/13/0006/2627

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Report now
dhpvcitizenconnect@printersmysore.co.in
Almost every locality in Bengaluru has a street corner or vacant plot that has turned into an informal garbage dump. These black spots are not merely an eyesore; they are a threat to public health and the environment. Deccan Herald and Prajavani invite citizens to share details and photographs of such sites for publication in these columns, in order to help push for timely action from the authorities.
Citizens are also encouraged to share photos of garbage black spots cleared after being highlighted in these columns.

JP Nagar 2nd Phase, near Woodys Restaurant. RAVINDRA D

Near Vibgyor High School, Hennur. A RESIDENT

Near Meda Greens Apartment, Mysuru Road. A RESIDENT

In front of GM Infinite Silver Corner Apartment, Sultanpalya. BALA

Near Ramanjaneya temple, Jakkasandra ward. SURESH ACHARYA

Caretaker held in daycare abuse case; citywide crèche inspections ordered

55-year-old woman arrested for alleged torture of toddlers

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru police on Friday arrested a 55-year-old caretaker in connection with the alleged torture of toddlers at a daycare centre operating inside tech giant Capgemini's Brookefield campus.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh also announced that daycare centres across the city would be inspected to ensure children's safety and verify whether they are operating in accordance with prescribed norms.

The accused, Vijayalakshmi, a native of Bangarpet in Kolar district, was picked up from her residence in Bengaluru. She has been named as accused No 2 in the case, first reported by *DH* on June 30.

The incident came to light after a former employee of the daycare centre shared videos of the alleged abuse with Child Helpline through WhatsApp.

Based on a complaint by the District Child Protection Unit, Bengaluru East, HAL police registered an FIR against five women caretakers.

The videos purportedly show caregivers intimidating toddlers whenever they cried or caused a disturbance. According to the complaint, the children were allegedly placed inside front-loading washing machines, made to sit inside a western-style toilet commode, sprayed with water from a toilet jet, locked inside bathrooms and threatened into silence.

The daycare facility is located inside Capgemini's Brookefield campus in the city.

Zero tolerance: Home Minister

Home Minister Priyank Kharge said the government had "zero tolerance" for such incidents and sought a written explanation from the company.

"Large companies have their own global policies for running daycare centres, including mandatory background verification of staff and standard operating procedures. It appears these were not followed. Companies must take responsibility. Toddlers need to be handled with utmost care. This is a shameful incident, and we already have laws to deal with such cases. We will take action," he told reporters.

Police investigations indicate that the centre's supervisor, Manjula, had hired four caretakers without providing them basic training in childcare or child handling before assigning them duties.

Based on Vijayalakshmi's statement, police are likely to arrest Manjula and the remaining accused soon, a senior police officer said.

Given the seriousness of the allegations involving toddlers, the probe is being supervised by a senior police officer.

Statements of daycare staff, parents and other witnesses are being recorded, while CCTV footage is being examined to establish individual responsibility. Police are verifying if the daycare operator complied with prescribed childcare and safety norms.

"We have asked our officers, along with the Child Welfare Committee, to inspect other such facilities. Proper checks must be maintained, and if similar issues are found elsewhere, appropriate action will be taken," Singh told *DH*.

Labour regulations

The commissioner said the investigation had also revealed alleged violations of labour regulations, including non-compliance with norms relating to salaries and employment conditions of staff.

"How the daycare was being run is very important. We have to ensure such incidents do not happen again and strengthen monitoring mechanisms."

> We have asked our officers, along with the Child Welfare Committee, to inspect other such facilities. Proper checks must be maintained, and if similar issues are found elsewhere, appropriate action will be taken.
>
> **Seemant Kumar Singh**
> City Police Commissioner

Daycare shut; parents offered WFH

Soon after Home Minister Priyank Kharge's statement, Capgemini said it had temporarily shut the daycare centre, operated by external service provider Little Scholars, pending a review. The company also said it was reassessing all its daycare providers across India.

"Our first thoughts are with the children and their families. We are extending all our support to them... Our daycare providers are subject to rigorous due diligence and compliance checks," the company said.

Capgemini has set up a helpline for affected families, offered counselling through its Employee Assistance Programme and provided flexible work-from-home options for employees.

The company said it would extend full cooperation to the authorities to establish the facts and ensure those responsible are held accountable.

Police are expected to question more staff members and further examine the facility's operating procedures.

Experts seek tighter daycare regulation

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The alleged abuse of toddlers at a daycare centre inside a Capgemini campus has turned the spotlight on the absence of a regulatory framework governing childcare facilities in Karnataka.

Child rights advocates say the state lacks statutory guidelines prescribing minimum standards for operating, staffing and monitoring daycare centres, leaving parents with little assurance about their children's safety.

"The lack of accountability is the biggest concern. After coming across the Capgemini case, I spoke to the child protection officer and a few other officials. I was shocked when I was told that officers visit daycare centres only after complaints are received. They do not conduct regular checks because it is not part of their job," said Nagalakshmi Choudhary, president, Karnataka State Commission for Women.

She also highlighted confusion over which department oversees daycare centres.

"I was told they do not fall under the child directorate, but under the education department. And, in Bengaluru, apparently, daycare operations fall under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). There is some confusion regarding this."

While a Child Protection Policy governs institutions and organisations dealing with children, it does not prescribe a strict framework for daycare centres.

"Since daycares are a profit-making business, anyone can start one. Despite the existence of the Child Protection Policy, the biggest vacuum is in daycare operations. We have pointed this out for years. A visit to any creche will show how poor the basic facilities are," said Nina Nayak, former chairperson, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Child rights advocates also flagged the hiring of untrained caregivers, poor background verification and inadequate staff to child ratios as critical gaps requiring urgent attention.

"We have the tradition of hiring 'ayammas' without any background verification. It is simply assumed that a woman can take care of children. They are hired not for their training, but because they are cheap labour. Once hired, most organisations make no effort to train them," said Nagamani CN, social worker, Child Rights Trust.

Community voices have also suggested giving parents live access to CCTV footage to help curb mental and physical abuse at daycare centres.

NCPCR takes suo motu cognisance

The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has taken suo motu cognisance of the alleged abuse of children at the Capgemini daycare centre. On Friday, it deputed a team to conduct a fact-finding inquiry at the office campus.

Govt 'playing with our plight': Quarry victims' kin

Families receive bodies, but no word on compensation

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Families of the quarry boulder collapse victims have accused the government and quarry owners of "playing with their plight".

They alleged that while the bodies are being sent home, no immediate financial assistance has been provided for transportation and last rites.

Seven workers were killed and five injured when a massive rock collapsed on them at a stone quarry near Madapatna in Tavarekere, Bengaluru South taluk, on July 2. Five of the deceased were from Madhya Pradesh, and one each from Chhattisgarh and Karnataka's Yadgir district.

Despite the tragedy, the state government has not announced any compensation or ex gratia payment to the victims' families.

The grieving families from Madhya Pradesh said uncertainty over compensation and lack of logistical support had added to their trauma as they waited to take their loved ones home for the last rites.

"They are giving us the bodies, but no compensation. How are we supposed to perform the funeral? We have not received even a single rupee so far," Sanjay Singh told *DH*.

His younger brother Ramavatar Singh was killed in the tragedy.

The families said they were unsure whether the Karnataka or Madhya Pradesh government would arrange transport for the bodies from Jabalpur to their villages.

The families also questioned the government's announcement of Rs 5 lakh compensation, saying there was no clarity on disbursal.

Licences suspended

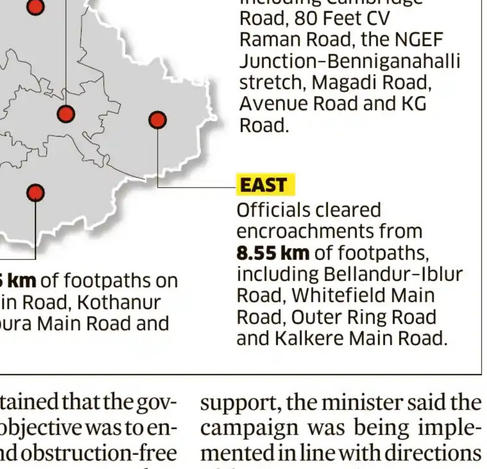
The owners of Kaveri Stone Crusher and Basaveshwara Stones remain absconding even as Tavarekere police have arrested a contractor, a mason and a supervisor.

Investigators arrested contractor Raju, associated with Kaveri Stone Crusher, mason Panduranga alias Pandu, and supervisor Lokesh of Basaveshwara Stones. All are in police custody for interrogation.

The tragedy has exposed alleged safety violations, with the Department of Mines and Geology suspending the quarrying licences of both firms. Multiple agencies, including police, the Labour Department and mines officials, are probing whether illegal quarrying and negligence led to the collapse.

Grieving family members from Madhya Pradesh wait outside the mortuary at Rajarajeswari Medical College and Hospital on Friday. DH PHOTO/MANJUNATH SHETTAR

A JCB removes a kiosk encroaching on a footpath in the Bengaluru West City Corporation limits. PHOTOS: GBA



Officials use JCBs to remove staircases encroaching on footpaths.

'Safe Footpath' drive clears 61 km more of encroached space

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 'Safe Footpath' drive entered its third day on Friday, with civic authorities clearing more than 61 km of encroached footpaths across the city.

The exercise focused primarily on removing physical encroachments that obstruct pedestrian movement, while maintaining that the campaign was not directed solely against street vendors.

Across the five city corporations, the drive covered 61.45 km of footpaths, taking the cumulative distance cleared to more than 202 km since the campaign began.

Officials said 141 km of encroached footpaths had already been cleared during the first two days of the exercise.

The corporations hired workers and deployed JCBs, tractors and tippers for the drive. Petty shops, pushcarts, roof structures, sheds and ramps were removed in the process. Some corporations also towed abandoned or obstructing two-wheelers and cars from public footpaths.

CORPORATION-WISE CLEARANCE

NORTH
Officials cleared encroachments from **14.10 km** of footpaths along Agrahara Main Road, Singapura Main Road, Dinnur Main Road, Oil Mill Road, CBI Road and Mohan Kumar Nagar Road, among others.

WEST
Officials cleared encroachments from **16.5 km** of footpaths along Hoysala Circle Road, Laggere Main Road, areas around Srinagar Bus Stand, Chord Road and Hosakerehalli Main Road.

SOUTH
Officials cleared encroachments from **11.35 km** of footpaths on Marenahalli Main Road, Jayanagar 34th Main Road, Kothanur Main Road, Yelenahalli Main Road, Kanakapura Main Road and stretches in BTM Layout.

CENTRAL
Officials cleared encroachments from **10.95 km** of footpaths across 12 roads, including Cambridge Road, 80 Feet CV Raman Road, the NGEF Junction–Benniganahalli stretch, Magadi Road, Avenue Road and KG Road.

EAST
Officials cleared encroachments from **8.55 km** of footpaths, including Bellandur–Iblur Road, Whitefield Main Road, Outer Ring Road and Kalkere Main Road.

Reviewing the campaign's progress, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda reiterated that the drive would focus on only 20 per cent of Bengaluru's total road network where pedestrian movement is the highest. Commercial activity and street vending, he said, can continue on the remaining roads in accordance with the law.

He maintained that the government's objective was to ensure safe and obstruction-free pedestrian movement rather than disrupt livelihoods.

"The objective is not to affect livelihoods, but to ensure that every citizen can walk safely. Public safety and public rights must remain paramount," he said.

Noting that MLAs from all political parties have extended support, the minister said the campaign was being implemented in line with directions of the Supreme Court.

However, the drive has received pushback from a section of citizens, including the street vendors' association, especially after materials of street vendors who are senior citizens, women and people with disabilities were taken away during the drive.

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Don't Miss
Tomorrow's DH on Sunday
BIG PICTURE
Women fighters punching patriarchy.
WELLNESS
Time to move beyond digital detox.
TRAVEL
In Bhaktapur, every alley tells a story of devotion.
BOOKS
Check out our Kannada translation special edition.
FOOD & DRINK
'Ice is no longer just an accessory to a drink or dessert.
ART & PURSUITS
Female akalis and warrior art.
Follow Us

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Inter-Club Football Tournament: Inauguration by NA Haris; KC Ramamurthy, Sabita Ramamurthy, Jaydeep KR Reddy to attend; Lakeside Campus, CMR University; 9 am.

Book Launch: Launch of astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla's 'The Second Orbit' followed by interaction with students; Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium; 10 am.

Book Launch: 'Kamanabillu Kannadadol Bhavisida Jagattu' by Prashanth Ignatius; Kannada Sahitya Parishat Hall, Chamarajpet; 4.30 pm.

Seminar: 'Karnataka Government: Educational Expectations', featuring discussions on school and higher education; MVC Hall, BM Sri Foundation, NR Colony; 5 pm.

Bharatanatyam Rangaprevesha: Sanvi Lalwani; Bengaluru Gayana Samaja, Basavanagudi; 5 pm.

Play: GK Masterara Pranaya Prasanga by Vishwapatha Kala Sangama; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 7 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	21.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	95%
Sunset (July 4)	6:50 pm
Sunrise (July 5)	5:58 am
Moonrise	9:28 pm
Moonset	8:33 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

KPSC chairman faces 'nepotism' charges as members want him out

Sahukar's daughter accused of submitting false income certificate for industrial extn officer's job

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) has sidelined its chairperson, Shivashankarappa S Sahukar, from its proceedings following allegations of nepotism against him.

A unanimous decision has been made by KPSC members that the chairperson should no longer be a part of the examination process and that he won't attend board meetings, sources said. Sahukar and one other member did not attend this meeting.

This development has put Sahukar under tremendous pressure to step down. He is at the centre of a major controversy involving his daughter Suma, who got selected for an industrial extension officer's (IEO) job.

She has been accused of falsely claiming a family income below Rs 8 lakh per annum in order to avail reservation.

Some KPSC members have lodged a complaint with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot against Sahukar. It is learnt that Gehlot has sought a report.

Sahukar, who became the KPSC chairperson in April 2021 and still has about 10 months left in his term, has clarified that he had no role in his daughter's recruitment process.

"During verification of documents, it was found that my daughter had furnished a certificate showing a lower family income, which led to confusion. I was informed by the KPSC Secretary that her caste and income certificates will be rejected. This subject was listed in the agenda for the June 19 meeting without my knowledge. Still, I decided not to attend the meeting as my daughter's case was listed," Sahukar stated.

Sahukar said he asked his daughter about it. "She said she didn't know that her certificate contained caste and income details. She said she didn't inform her parents," he stated.

"Therefore, I didn't know that a lower income had been shown."

Suma has decided not to go ahead with her recruitment as an industrial extension officer, Sahukar said. "She has asked the KPSC Secretary to cancel her candidature."

Sahukar pointed out that candidates for the post of industrial extension officers do not have an interview round. "They get selected based on the marks scored in the competitive exam and existing reservation rules," he stated. "The entire recruitment process - from the exam to the verification of documents - is handled by the KPSC Secretary and Controller of Exams."

KPSC, a Constitutional body, has become notorious for irregularities in recruitment. A house committee headed by senior lawmaker R V Deshpande is looking at revamping the KPSC.

Youtuber held for posting defamatory video on DyCM

TUMAKURU, DHNS: A Youtuber, who allegedly uploaded a video that could damage the reputation of Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara and Tumakuru Deputy Commissioner Shubha Kalyan, was arrested on Friday.

Brahmanand Reddy, who runs the YouTube channel 'Detective Legends', had uploaded a video called 'Deputy CM Parameshwara Love Story' that sought to slander the personalities shown in the video.

Tumakuru police social media monitoring cell received a link to the video in question on July 1, and on opening it, found that it contained objectionable content. Fearing that the video could trigger anger among the sections of the public, besides potentially disrupting the law and order, police decided to take Reddy into custody.

Bribery: Lokayukta cops arrest KUWSDB engineers

BALLARI, DHNS: The Lokayukta police caught red-handed assistant engineer of Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board (KUWSDB) Ashok S and assistant executive engineer Kashi Vishwanath while taking a bribe of Rs 55,000 at their office here on Friday.

The complainant, Veeresh, a resident of Sanganakallu Road, had applied for a water supply layout plan for his multi-plot layout. The assistant engineer had a bribe of Rs 55,000 for the same. Veeresh had lodged a complaint with Ballari Lokayukta police in this regard.

The Lokayukta police laid a trap and were accordingly arrested when the assistant engineer took a bribe of Rs 55,000. The AEE also walked into the trap when he was taking a portion of bribe money from his subordinate.

Cabinet expansion in two weeks: Yathindra

DAVANGERE, DHNS

Urban Development Minister Yathindra Siddaramaiah said the state cabinet expansion is expected in two weeks.

Addressing mediapersons here on Friday, he said 20 minister posts are vacant in the cabinet headed by Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

It would be filled when the party high command finalises the list of ministers, he added.

When questioned, he said it would be a combination of new and old faces in the cabinet, as we need new ideas and the thoughts of young legislators, along with experienced MLAs.

When questioned about the state witnessing drought after D K Shivakumar became the chief minister, he said it has nothing to do with the change of power.

It is because of climate change and El Nino is the reason for it. It is not just in the state or the country; the entire world is witnessing climate change.

Some parts of the world are witnessing dry spells and other parts are seeing heavy rainfall, he said.

Replying to a question on polls for urban local bodies, he said the elections would be conducted as per the directions of the Election Commission. It has already directed the government to conduct polls for the Greater Bengaluru Authority, he added.

When questioned on the development of layouts by realtors on government land in Shivamogga, the minister said he would look into the issue and organise a video conference meeting in this regard. He also promised that action would be taken against those who have violated the norms.

Prepare action plan to address energy shortfall, says CM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Energy Minister K J George hold a review meeting of the Energy department in Bengaluru on Friday.

Anticipating a poor monsoon's impact on power production in the state, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Friday directed the Energy Department to prepare an action plan and implement precautionary measures to address any shortfall.

He asked officials to operationalise coal mines reserved for the government to ensure power plants have enough coal reserves.

Noting that renewable energy projects are crucial to ensure the state has sufficient power, Shivakumar asked officials to expedite Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) projects and pumped storage projects.

"We are the IT capital. Going ahead, we should also become the capital for Artificial Intelligence (AI). That would mean a boom in data centres and growth in the digital economy, increasing power demand. We should start preparing for it now," he said.

Shivakumar said peak power demand is expected to reach 38 gigawatts by 2035 and advised preparing a plan to correspondingly increase generation capacity, along with the necessary roadmap for financing.

"The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) should be implemented swiftly to secure central government assistance for modernising meters and the power distribution system. Smart meters should be installed transparently and within the stipulated timeframe," he said.

To meet the growing power demand, the state's power grid infrastructure needs to be strengthened to adequately handle increased production and transmission, he said.

Energy Minister K J George urged the CM to take steps to promptly clear dues to the tune of Rs 12,631 crore owed by government departments to Escoms or to resolve the matter through securitisation.

Shivakumar said the financial stability of Escoms should be enhanced through liquidity improvement and debt management.

Shivakumar meets Siddu, Kharge

BENGALURU, DHNS

Having completed a month in office, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar met his predecessor Siddaramaiah and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday.

Shivakumar, his wife Usha and his brother D K Suresh met Siddaramaiah for breakfast. Shivakumar is said to have thanked Siddaramaiah for his cooperation.

Later in the evening, Shivakumar met Kharge and held talks. With Kharge, Shivakumar is said to have discussed the expansion of his Cabinet. The Cabinet currently has Shivakumar and 13 other ministers, leaving 20 positions vacant.

In a separate development, Congress lawmakers K N Rajanna, M R Seetharam, A S Ponnanna and Ashok Pattan met Siddaramaiah. Except Rajanna, the other lawmakers are ministerial aspirants.

A senior Congress leader said Siddaramaiah will be important for the Congress' scheme of things in the run-up to the 2028 Assembly polls. "There are three communities with a pan-Karnataka presence: Dalits, Muslims and Kurubas. Siddaramaiah enjoys the support of these three communities," the leader explained. Siddaramaiah is a Kuruba himself.

Since stepping down as chief minister on May 28, Siddaramaiah has maintained a low profile. "He's too quiet," the leader quoted above said. "We must watch his silence."

Activist arrested for derogatory remarks on Muslim clerics

ALUR (HASSAN DISTRICT), DHNS: The Kumaraswamy Layout police of Bengaluru on Friday arrested Puneeth Kerehalli, an activist and head of Rashtra Raksha Na Pade, over alleged allegations of making derogatory remarks against Muslim clerics.

He was arrested from his native village Kerehalli in the taluk based on a complaint lodged by Abdul Razak of Bengaluru, police said.

Speaking to mediapersons, Puneeth Kerehalli said, "I have also lodged a complaint against Abdul Razak in connection with a life threat. Instead of arresting him, the police have arrested me. This is misuse of power by the Congress government. This is a pre-planned conspiracy hatched against me."

The police said the investigation is underway and the legal proceedings have been done on the allegations in the complaint.

HC to aggregators: Deposit gig workers'...

Gig worker, from Page 1

In an interim order, Justice M Nagaprasanna asked the state not to take coercive steps against the petitioners till the next hearing.

"To balance the rights of the petitioners, the state and the rights of those likely to get a certain amount, the amount of the second quarter shall be deposited before this court within three weeks from today," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

"Statement of objections shall be filed on or before July 30. List the matter on July 31. In light of the aforesaid directions, no coercive steps shall be taken against the petitioners till the next date," he stated.

Appearing for the petitioners, senior advocates Dhyan Chinnappa and C K Nandakumar submitted that the state Act trenches upon the occupied field of Parliament. They said the COSS, passed by Parliament, consolidated the laws relating to social security for all employees and workers, whether in the organised or unorganised sectors, including gig and platform workers.

They further argued that aggregators' contributions are covered under Section 114(4) of COSS and would be paid towards the schemes notified by the Centre and credited to the Social Security Fund. They claimed to have filed representations to the state government with concerns about dual contribution obligations under the COSS and the state Act, and complained about the absence of any notified welfare schemes under the state Act.

Additional Solicitor General Aravind Kamath, appearing for the Centre, argued that the state Act is directly hit by Article 254 of the Constitution. Every provision in COSS is a replica found in the state Act and the state Act cannot be implemented in the teeth of Article 254, he said.

Defending the legislation, Advocate General (AG) Shashikiran Shetty argued that there is no conflict between the central and the state Acts.

"It is not as though the state Act has come as a bolt from the blue as the petitioners themselves had participated in the deliberations on every aspect of the legislation," he said. He further submitted that identical legislations have been passed by other states such as Rajasthan, Bihar and Telangana.

'What is your roadmap?'

During the hearing, Justice Nagaprasanna asked the state government about the details of welfare schemes from the fees collected by aggregators. The court said such a fee should not be utilised for any other purposes, as is being done in construction labourers' welfare cess.

The court orally observed that when aggregators charge about 40% more, the delivery person should also get what is due.

"Nothing comes at the MRP (Maximum Retail Price). Maybe you (aggregators) are entitled to charge (extra). If you are charging 40% extra, let the poor man who delivers with all odds, in rain, sun and such circumstances get 50 paisa," Justice Nagaprasanna orally said.

To this, the petitioners' advocate said fees collected from aggregators would not be paid directly to delivery boys but collected for the social welfare scheme.

The court asked the state to file a comprehensive statement of objections with details of fund utilisation.

Punish guilty in Ram temple...

RSS, from Page 1

Noting that the Uttar Pradesh government had constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) at the request of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, he said, "It is essential to ensure that anyone found guilty after the investigation faces severe punishment."

Hosabale, in a video statement the Sangh released on its social media channels, said it was natural for the Hindu society, including the RSS, to expect the trust to take effective measures to rectify the issue.

"The Trust can naturally expect from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, along with the entire Hindu society, that this highly condemnable incident be treated as exceptional and that effective steps be taken with utmost seriousness to address all deficiencies in the arrangements and operations, so that the faith and reverence of crores of Ram devotees in the Ayodhya temple remains unbroken and unwavering," Hosabale said.

"The current state of confusion and uncertainty must end," he said, adding that the temple management and the government-appointed SIT should take all necessary initiatives.

Expressing confidence in the trust, Hosabale said that "proper financial management, flawless and transparent operational systems, and an atmosphere imbued with purity, sanctity and true dharmikta" would help strengthen the faith and trust of Hindu society.

The RSS also appealed for restraint, calling upon the Hindu community to display "necessary patience and restraint during this difficult moment" and to thwart what it described as attempts by "anti-Hindu and anti-national forces" to exploit the incident to malign Hindu dharma and society.

SIR: CEO orders house visits as Oppn cries foul

SIR, Page 1

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy, who released videos on Thursday claiming that BLOs were enumerating people in a community hall at Ramanagara, demanded the appointment of senior officers from other states to supervise SIR in the state.

"The revision carried out so far must be scrapped," he said, branding Chief Minister D K Shivakumar as the "principal architect" behind the irregularities.

Rubbishes charges

Government Chief Whip Saleem Ahmed rubbished the Opposition's charge that illegal Bangladeshis were being enumerated.

"BLOs are going house to house. Stray casescan't be used to generalise. The BJP is trying to make it a communal issue. We have asked our party workers to help voters of all sections of society," Ahmed added.

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India, Japan in a strategic axis

India and Japan have further strengthened their decades-long bilateral relations following the visit of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. Economic and technological cooperation remain the core dimensions of the relationship, marked by billions of dollars in Japanese investments. Now, there is a growing emphasis on cooperation in defence and security. The visit yielded 16 major outcomes, emphasising the deepening mutual connection. Notably, Indian and Japanese companies signed 129 memorandums of understanding spanning technology, investment, and artificial intelligence. Japan is expected to invest $1 trillion in India. The two nations have adopted a roadmap for economic security, focusing on critical minerals and semiconductors. To further boost bilateral trade, they have also agreed to review their 15-year-old Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

One of the key outcomes of the three-day visit was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of the first co-development defence project involving the two countries: the Unified Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN). Modi noted that the new collaboration would help build defence technologies supporting regional peace, maritime security, and a rules-based order. Prime Minister Takaichi highlighted maritime security as central to stability in the Indo-Pacific region, noting that Japan's vision for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) aligns with India's belief that the ocean is a shared space vital for sustaining growth and sovereignty. The two sides also committed to deepening defence ties, agreeing to expand cooperation through joint military exercises, along with the transfer and sale of defence equipment and technology, reinforcing a broader strategic partnership.

Closer ties can anchor Indo-Pacific stability amid shifting alliances and China's assertiveness

The renewed focus on the India-Japan relationship must be seen in the context of a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape in the Indo-Pacific. The region is witnessing growing uncertainty over the direction of the United States' policy, particularly its approach to China and the future of security commitments to its allies. Washington's decision to rename the Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) back to Pacific Command (PACOM), coupled with perceptions that the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) has received less strategic attention, has raised questions about the durability of the existing regional security architecture. President Donald Trump's recent visit to China has heightened speculation about possible shifts in US priorities. For countries such as Japan, whose security has long depended on the US alliance, these developments have revived concerns about strategic reliability. India also faces challenges from China's assertions. Stronger India-Japan ties present the two Asian powers an opportunity to enhance regional stability, while strengthening strategic autonomy and shared security interests.

Quarry safety demands relentless oversight

The death of seven labourers at a stone quarry near Tavarekere, on Bengaluru's outskirts, is the result of criminal negligence and a collapse of regulatory oversight. The victims, who had travelled from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka's Yadgir district in search of a livelihood, paid with their lives for a system that consistently places profit above human safety. Their families, who depended on them, are now left to bear an irreparable loss. The quarry owner undoubtedly bears primary responsibility. But to stop there would be to ignore the larger machinery of official complicity. The Department of Mines and Geology must also share the blame. If workers were made to labour beneath unstable rock faces without helmets, harnesses or basic protective equipment, where were the inspecting officers? Equally answerable is the Labour Department, whose officials are entrusted with enforcing workplace safety, labour welfare, and statutory protections. Regulatory failure on this scale does not occur overnight; it is the product of inspections that never happened, violations that were overlooked, or worse, ignored.

Rescue personnel described the labourers as being treated like "slaves". They were reportedly assigned to zones already flagged as dangerous after earlier blasting, while living in makeshift shelters beside the crushing units. It is difficult to imagine a more blatant violation of labour and human dignity. The government must also determine whether these workers were registered under applicable labour laws and covered by mandatory accident insurance. If not, the violations extend into wilful exploitation. Residents had reportedly raised repeated complaints about the quarry's operations and safety record. Local MLA S T Somashekar has said he raised the matter in the Assembly and before the Petitions Committee on multiple occasions, yet no action followed. Unsafe quarrying on this scale rarely survives without administrative protection.

Strong enforcement and accountability – not reactive crackdowns – will provide real safeguards

This is not an isolated tragedy. In December last year, a lorry driver lost his life after his tipper plunged into a gorge inside an illegal stone quarry in Mandya district. The government has ordered statewide safety audits and temporarily suspended quarry operations. A few notices will be issued, some inspections conducted, and within weeks, business will resume as usual. These reactive gestures have become the hallmark of governance. What is needed is relentless enforcement and continuous monitoring. Jurisdictional officers of both the relevant departments must be held responsible for safety violations. Unless negligent officers are prosecuted alongside errant quarry owners, more workers will continue to lose their lives to systemic indifference.

A MEASURED DISTANCE

India's long game: From influence to authority

The country's strategic restraint reflects a pragmatic balance of global ambitions with developmental priorities

RAGHU GURURAJ

Every few months, a new international crisis erupts. And each time, a familiar question follows: Where is India? It appeared again during the latest tensions in West Asia. The question was understandable. India enjoys relations with every major actor in the region. If diplomacy required talking to all sides, India appeared uniquely qualified. And every time, New Delhi's response has been strikingly similar. India urges restraint, calls for dialogue, protects and evacuates its citizens, safeguards its economic interests, and avoids taking sides wherever possible. That response is neither surprising nor accidental. It reflects a pattern visible across decades of Indian foreign policy.

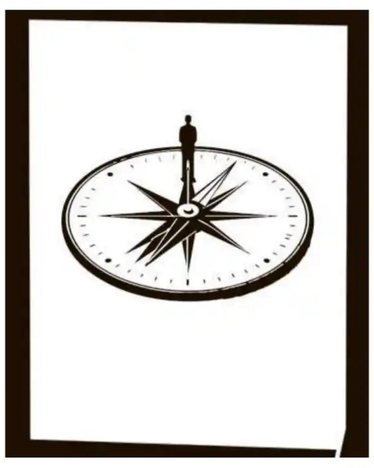
To critics, this is evidence of excessive caution. To supporters, it reflects strategic autonomy. But perhaps both interpretations miss a larger reality. India's historical response to crises reveals a deeper truth: India is not trying to shape the world. It is trying to navigate an increasingly turbulent international order while transforming itself.

India today seeks a larger international role. It champions Global South concerns, advocates reform of global governance institutions and argues that its size, economy, and demographics justify a greater voice in world affairs. These aspirations are not unreasonable, but the question is whether the foundations of its national power are keeping pace with them. When the United States invaded Iraq, India stayed out. When Afghanistan collapsed, India watched from the sidelines. During the Ukraine war, India refused to take sides. During repeated West Asia crises, India has chosen caution over activism. Also, India takes risks only when its own interests are directly threatened, like during the Pokhran nuclear tests of 1998, the Kargil war, the Doklam clash, the Balakot strikes, the Galwan skirmish, and the Pahalgam attack.

India's doctrine of strategic autonomy carries an often overlooked consequence. Countries that decline to take sides in other people's wars should not be surprised when others decline to take sides in theirs. The measured international response to Operation Sindoor and the India-Pakistan standoff demonstrated that strategic autonomy buys freedom of action, but not necessarily diplomatic solidarity.

On the one hand, India increasingly seeks a greater role in world affairs. On the other hand, its response to major international crises remains cautious and selective. The contradiction, however, may be overstated. India is exercising leadership in areas such as development partnerships, vaccine diplomacy, space cooperation, disaster relief, and Global South advocacy. The real challenge is not leadership itself, but converting growing influence into the kind of comprehensive power that secures a permanent place at the highest tables of international decision-making.

India's foreign policy can best be understood through its aspirations, capabilities, and behaviour. Its aspirations



increasingly resemble those of a leading power. It seeks a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Its capabilities, however, remain those of a rising power still undergoing economic and technological transformation. Its responses, therefore, reflect caution and strategic autonomy. This tension arises because the three elements are advancing at different speeds.

The reason lies in the scale of India's task. It seeks to become a developed nation by 2047 while simultaneously building manufacturing depth, semiconductor capabilities, technological self-reliance, modern infrastructure, and military strength. Few democracies in modern history have attempted so many structural transitions simultaneously, especially under democratic conditions. Foreign policy debates frequently focus on summits, alignments, and diplomatic positioning. But great powers are not built in conference rooms. They are built through factories, research laboratories, universities, logistics networks, and competitive firms. India's challenge is therefore not merely geopolitical. It is developmental.

In fact, there are good reasons for India's restraint. Unlike the US, India cannot project military power across continents. Unlike China, it lacks the economic leverage to shape outcomes far from its borders. It cannot afford expensive geopolitical adventures, unlike European nations, while confronting immense developmental challenges at home. Moreover, India does not enjoy the luxury of a benign neighbourhood.

China remains its principal strategic competitor. Pakistan continues to pose security challenges. The Indian Ocean is becoming increasingly contested. West Asia remains critical for India's energy security and the livelihoods of millions of Indian expatriates. Instability in Eurasia affects everything from defence supplies to commodity prices. India cannot ignore geopolitics even if it wanted to. This explains why New Delhi participates simultaneously in the Quad, BRICS, the SCO, I2U2, and numerous connectivity initiatives. What appears contradictory is often an attempt to manage multiple vulnerabilities at the same time.

More than diplomacy

For India, strategic autonomy, therefore, is not merely a slogan. It is a practical necessity. Indeed, it has served India well. It enabled India to maintain relations with Russia while deepening ties with the US. It allowed New Delhi to purchase discounted Russian oil despite Western pressure. It preserved engagement with Iran while boosting partnerships with Israel and the Gulf monarchies. Few countries enjoy such diplomatic flexibility. The problem is not strategic autonomy per se, but when it becomes an end in itself rather than a means.

More importantly, that flexibility serves a developmental purpose. Strategic autonomy accords India the option to draw simultaneously on American technology, Russian energy, Gulf capital, European markets, and Japanese manufacturing partnerships. It is therefore not simply a diplomatic doctrine but a mechanism for accelerating India's economic and technological transformation.

India need not retreat from the world or abandon its larger aspirations. Far from it. A country of India's size, geography, and civilisational depth cannot be a passive observer. Nor should it be. But India must sequence its ambitions correctly.

India's challenge is not choosing between development and leadership. It is aligning ambition with capability. New Delhi is right to seek a larger role in world affairs. But lasting influence ultimately rests on economic strength, technological depth, and national capacity. If India succeeds in building those foundations over the next two decades, many of the leadership positions it seeks today will become far easier to attain tomorrow.

(The writer is a retired Ambassador and a former foreign service officer)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

When life comes full circle

From the school gate to the departure gate, every goodbye is hard

K G RAGHAVAN

It's the July-August season — a time when aspiring youngsters embark on their chosen career paths.

A few days ago, I had a visitor. The gentleman was proud that his daughter was leaving for a prestigious university abroad to pursue a law degree. He was excited. But on the lady's face there was a tinge of sadness. Why? I did not ask. I knew why.

It brought back memories of how I felt when each of my two daughters stepped out of home for the first time, to pursue higher education in a foreign land. I am sure many parents share these feelings.

It is 8 am, and there is great excitement at home. It is the first day at school. The little toddler is leaving home for the first time to manage on her own. She is blissfully oblivious to all the happenings around her. She does not know why she has been woken up so early.

But the lady — my wife — is everywhere: in the kitchen, in the bedroom and in the bathroom, as though she is omnipresent. At times she screams, at times she appears lost, and throughout she is emotionally charged. She has hardly slept the whole night, lest she should fail to hear the alarm — a brand-new one bought the previous day. After all, how could one trust the old alarm clock on such an important day?

The event is the culmination of a six-month ordeal — waiting overnight in a queue to collect the application form, submitting it, and then looking out almost every day for the arrival of the postman carrying that much-awaited 'green card'.

The nervous lady constantly reminds me not to fix any office commitment on the interview day — the most important engagement of our lives. She endlessly rehearses the questions that may be asked and tutors me on how I should behave. She also coaches me on the answers I should give. Alas, even the four-year-old is not allowed to live in peace. No childish tantrums, she is told. She is lectured on manners, and introduced to all the lingo of a foreign language that, to the little one, is nothing more than jumble mumble. Then come numbers, shapes and colours to be memorised. What a misery.

Finally, she arrives at school on her first day. She clings to her mother's attire not wanting to let go. The little one stretches out her hand to go back with her mother. The mother turns her back and walks away fighting back her tears.

Anyway, life moves on. That little bundle of joy is now 24 years old, ready to face the world on her own. She is now ready to travel thousands of miles away for education in a foreign land. Technology notwithstanding, it is still far and distant. And it is the same all over again — applications, transcripts, SOPs, recommendation letters, and what have you. I travel with her to help her settle down with reasonable comfort. There is only one difference this time. At the end of it all, I stretch out my hand for her to come back with me. But she turns her back and walks away.

It's one full circle of life.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Freedom and the politics of faith

This refers to 'Time to withdraw the anti-conversion law in Karnataka' (July 2). The Constitution guarantees every citizen the freedom to profess, practise and propagate religion. Conversion through force, threat or inducement is already punishable under law and must be dealt with firmly. But peaceful persuasion and voluntary conversion cannot be criminalised. Christianity and Islam have existed in India for centuries, yet both remain minority religions. Claims that voluntary conversions threaten the country's demographic balance are politically motivated and intended to stoke fear. The Constitution's guarantee of religious freedom has helped preserve communal harmony and must be upheld.
M V Sridhara, Mysuru

Truth delayed

Apropos 'The costs of deferred truth' (July 3), it is deplorable that even though six Indian soldiers were killed during last year's Operation Sindoor, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told the Lok Sabha that no Indian soldiers had been harmed. The government later argued that he was responding only to reports about the deaths of fighter pilots. The sooner the government sheds its illusion of perfection and upholds democratic accountability, the better it will be for Indian democracy.
M Basavaraj, Davanagere

No selective action

The state government's safe footpath campaign is commendable for clearing encroachments and restoring pedestrian space while relocating vendors. The government should also address other encroachments. On many roads, places of worship have occupied footpaths and even erected semi-permanent structures, with scant regard for public safety.
Vijaya Krishna Kumar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

He (Vinay Katiyar) seems really confused. I don't think he has spoken with a healthy mind. There is some issue with him.

Alok Kumar, VHP international president (On BJP leader Katiyar's statement that culprits in the alleged Ram Mandir donation embezzlement may go to jail)

To err is human, to cover up is unforgivable.
Sir Liam Donaldson

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Reframing copyright for the AI age

Harm occurs when AI models generate output that substitutes for the human work they learned from

KASHISH MAKKAR

A huge amount of litigation is happening across the world on the use of copyrighted works by generative AI companies. In India, the Delhi High Court has been hearing the *ANI v. OpenAI* case, which involves different creative industries fighting together against OpenAI. The Court is due to announce its decision on an interim injunction against OpenAI anytime now. While the resistance by creative industries is remarkable, litigation cannot resolve the challenge they face. The real difficulty is not copyright breach or the limits of fair use. It is that the dispute itself lies beyond what a court can resolve. This dispute requires revisiting copyright law, and only Parliament can meaningfully resolve it.

Copyright law draws a line between two kinds of use. First, using a work for its expression. This includes adapting a novel into a film, translating a book, or publishing a sequel. This is protected as the author's market, and any use requires a licence. Second, using a work for some other purpose. This includes using the copyrighted work to criticise it, study it, teach it, or take inspiration and produce something transformative. In this use, there is no reselling the author's expression. It is considered fair dealing. For a century, every copyright fight was a fight about which side of that line a use fell.

Which side does AI training fall on? If a large language AI model reads a novel, it does not consume the expression. It extracts statistical patterns and uses the book as data. This is the second kind of use: fair and legally non-protectable. But ingesting the book as data, the AI model can produce many books in the author's voice and compete with them. This is the first kind of use, the kind that is protected and requires a licence.

This is the heart of the matter. AI models use protected work as data, which is permissible, to build something that competes in the market for the protected expression. The law has no resolution for this. It is not that the law was drafted badly. It was just drafted for a different world. The Copyright Act 1957 was passed in a world of human-scale where the line between using a work's expression and using it for other purposes never had to bear much weight. This world is gone and is being replaced by a technology that lives right on the line.

Accordingly, there is a need to strike a fresh bargain on what deserves protection and what can be considered fair dealing. The Court will have to choose between infringement and fair dealing for something which is neither. Therefore, it is time to strike a fresh bargain, and it is the Parliament that represents the society on such questions. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released a working paper presenting the government's position on this bargain. It concludes, correctly, that the old deal does not fit.

A flawed resolution

However, the government has proposed a mandatory, retroactive, blanket licence: train AI models on whatever you like, and pay a slice of your revenue into a central pool that a new collecting body distributes to rights-holders. This solution is destined to fail not only because it cannot capture training that happens outside India. But also, its stated goal to sustain human creativity by collecting royalties for human creators and dividing it amongst them cannot produce sizeable incentives. The aggregators will collect; the writer, photographer, or musician will not meaningfully benefit.

The working paper erroneously treats the harm as occurring at the moment of training. But training, in itself, harms no one. A model that reads every newspaper and sits in a vault injures no publisher. The harm arrives when the model generates work that substitutes for the human work it learned from. This threatens the journalist, the novelist, the composer. This is the competition that can hollow out a creative economy.

We are pouring effort into licensing the input, where the act is borderless, and the harm is speculative. On the other hand, the output where the harm is real and concrete goes largely unaddressed. It is as though we set out to tax the reading of books to protect authors from plagiarism, and left the plagiarism itself untouched. We need to revisit this problem with honesty. It means aiming at where the harm actually lands, not where it is easiest to install a tax.

(The writer is a dual-qualified lawyer [India and UK] and teaches law at Cyril Shroff Centre, Jindal Global University)

Ayodhya is the symbol of Sanatan Dharma. Don't defame Ayodhya. Whoever played with our faith will have to pay the price.
YOGI ADITYANATH, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

The SIT probe is an eyewash. The issue is directly concerned with the Sanatani Samaj's faith. The court should take suo motu cognisance.
AKHILESH YADAV, President, Samajwadi Party

The government is shielding the main culprits, and only the small fish have been caught. The central agencies should probe the case.
AJAY RAI, President, UP Congress Committee

Every Hindu is hurt because of the theft. This is an attack on the faith of the Hindus. We gave 40 years of our lives to the Ram Janmbhoomi movement, and we know how painful it is. **PRAVIN TOGADIA,** Former International Working President, VHP

A temple in turmoil and a test of trust

SUMIT PANDE
DH NEWS SERVICE

Last week, amid the controversy over the alleged embezzlement of Ram Mandir donations, a delegation of the Uttar Pradesh Congress accused the Ayodhya police of detaining its leaders ahead of their visit to the shrine. The image shared by state Congress chief Ajay Rai – seated in a guest house under police watch – was laden with irony.

At the height of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement in the 1980s and 1990s, leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the BJP were routinely arrested or detained while trying to reach Ayodhya despite prohibitory orders imposed by Congress, Samajwadi Party, or Bahujan Samaj Party governments. At Ram Sanehi Ghat, between Ayodhya and Barabanki districts, stands an Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department rest house where VHP stalwarts Ashok Singhal and Giriraj Kishore were detained. Today, the roles have been reversed.

The grand Ram Mandir is now a reality. The RSS is celebrating its centenary year, and the BJP is the country's dominant political force. Yet, having achieved its biggest ideological objective, the Sangh Parivar now confronts its gravest challenge to its moral standing as the donation embezzlement controversy unravels. The repercussions will unfold on multiple fronts: the impact on the RSS's image and credibility, the implications for its relationship with the BJP and other affiliates, and the possible electoral consequences.

Ideological discipline and financial integrity have always been central to the RSS's ethos. The controversy is especially uncomfortable for the RSS because the two key figures under scrutiny – Champat Rai and Anil Mishra – come from its core ecosystem.

Initially, VHP leaders backed Rai, a former chemistry teacher who joined the Ram Janmabhoomi movement in the early 1980s. After senior leaders passed away and Pravin Togadia was sidelined, Rai emerged as the VHP's principal face. Mishra is regarded as the RSS's representative within the trust. A homoeopathy practitioner from Ayodhya, he served as the yajman, or principal host, during the 2024 consecration ceremony.

Mahant Dinendra Das, Nirmohi Akhara chief and another trustee, has also questioned the role of Gopal Rao, the temple administrator, who is reportedly close to a senior RSS functionary from Karnataka.

The rapid succession of events and the public airing of internal differences could weaken the Sangh's traditional moral authority over its cadre and affiliates, particularly the BJP. The controversy may jeopardise the VHP's plans to mobilise support for the Mathura and Kashi causes.

The RSS-BJP relationship has evolved significantly over the past decade, with the ruling party increasingly asserting its autonomy in matters of governance and political strategy. At the same time, the RSS no longer possesses towering organisational figures such as Dattopant Thengadi or Ashok Singhal, who could independently shape public discourse and command authority within the broader Sangh Parivar.

"How the RSS handles this episode is critical. It could well determine the trajectory the Sangh takes in the coming decades – whether it continues as a dynamic ideological movement or gradually evolves into an institutional body like the Arya Samaj," an RSS insider said, requesting anonymity.

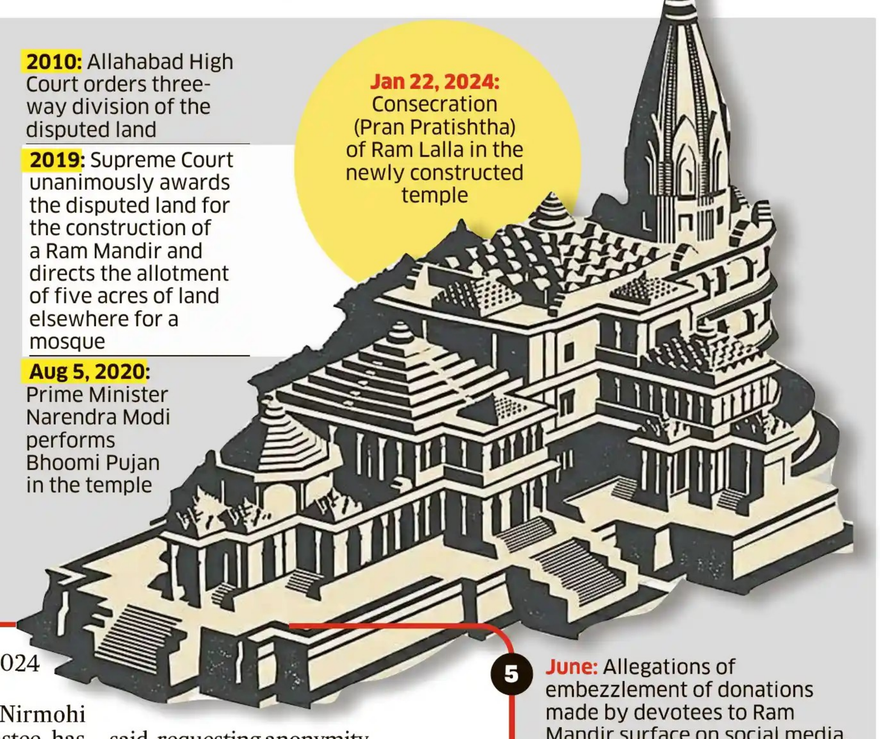
It is still too early, however, to draw firm conclusions about the controversy's electoral impact on the BJP.

The 2024 Lok Sabha election offered a reminder that political outcomes often defy prevailing narratives. Barely three months after the consecration of the Ram Mandir , the BJP suffered significant setbacks in Uttar Pradesh despite the temple's inauguration dominating the national discourse. Elections are increasingly decided in the final weeks, and Uttar Pradesh remains months away from polling.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has moved swiftly by constituting an SIT to investigate the allegations, publicly vowing not to spare anyone. Yogi has sought to reinforce his image as a Hindutva leader willing to act, even when the allegations reach deep into the broader Sangh ecosystem.

Television news channels have, surprisingly, pursued the alleged embezzlement story with unusual vigour. Equally striking has been the absence of BJP national spokespersons from these debates, leaving the scrutiny focused almost entirely on the RSS and the VHP rather than on the government.

The making of a Mandir



1528: The Babri Masjid is constructed
1949: The idol of Ram Lalla appears inside the structure; the site is locked after legal disputes
1986: The district court orders the unlocking of the gates for worship by the Hindus
1992: The Babri Masjid is demolished on December 6
2010: Allahabad High Court orders three-way division of the disputed land
2019: Supreme Court unanimously awards the disputed land for the construction of a Ram Mandir and directs the allotment of five acres of land elsewhere for a mosque
Aug 5, 2020: Prime Minister Narendra Modi performs Bhoomi Pujan in the temple
Jan 22, 2024: Consecration (Pran Pratishtha) of Ram Lalla in the newly constructed temple

2026: A Scam at the Sanctum

5 June: Allegations of embezzlement of donations made by devotees to Ram Mandir surface on social media.
7 June: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav seeks court intervention
8 June: Sri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust's general secretary Champat Rai denies the allegations
10 June: Prime Minister's Office seeks a report from the Trust
11 June: Former accountant's video allegedly showing cash theft goes viral online
13 June: UP government forms a three-member SIT
15 June: SIT begins probe, questions staff of the Trust
23 June: SIT interim report flags major procedural lapses
25 June: An FIR is filed, and eight named accused are arrested
26 June: Champat Rai and Anil Mishra, another trustee, resign
29 June: SIT questions Champat Rai; he denies wrongdoing

Compiled by Sanjay Pandey and Satish Jha, DHNS

Ayodhya hurt, faith endures

SANJAY PANDEY
DH NEWS SERVICE

After an unexpected dry spell, the monsoon finally arrived in Ayodhya, bringing the much-awaited rains to the temple town, which has once again made national headlines — this time over allegations of the embezzlement of crores of rupees from offerings at the grand Ram Temple.

There may be dark clouds over Ayodhya, but the faith of devotees, though hurt by the controversy, appears undiminished. They continue to flock to the town from across the country to pay obeisance at the Ram Mandir.

Equally hurt are those associated with the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

"It is really very unfortunate and has hurt our sentiments. Stern action should be taken against the guilty, whoever they may be," said Jaya Mishra, who came from Ballia with her in-laws for Ram Lalla's darshan. Rashmi Pathak, who came from Gurgaon, echoed the sentiment. "We feel deeply hurt by the controversy," she said.

Several devotees, however, praised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his "tough stand" on the issue and expressed hope that the guilty would not be spared.

The steady stream of devotees suggested their faith remained undiminished, with no significant decline in pilgrim numbers after the allegations surfaced on June 5.

Santosh Dubey, who was associated with the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, has been vocal about the issue from the beginning. "I have no faith in the SIT (Special Investigation Team) probe. It should be investigated by central agencies. I will move the court if needed," he said.

He claimed that the embezzlement of offerings had been going on for a long time under the nose of members of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

"They all turned a blind eye to it. The trust should be dissolved and reconstituted with religious leaders as members," he added.

Seers seek a new trust

While local politicians remained divided along party lines, several seers in Ayodhya said the allegations had tarnished the image of the temple town and blamed the trust for the taint.

They also called for the dissolution and reconstitution of the trust, with only religious leaders from Ayodhya as members.

Mahant Dharm Das, a prominent seer and president of the Sriram Janmabhoomi Seva Samiti, said no local seer had been included in the trust when it was formed. He also opposed the appointment of a CEO to oversee the management of the temple.

"A temple must always have a mahant. What is the need for a CEO?" Dharm Das said.

Another much-revered seer, Mahant Sitaram Das, welcomed Champat Rai's resignation as the general secretary of the trust. He also demanded the resignation of the trust's treasurer, Govind Giri. "The trust should be dissolved immediately," he added.

BJP leaders in Ayodhya and Lucknow kept repeating that a SIT was probing the matter and the guilty would not be spared.

Pawan Pandey, a former MLA and Samajwadi Party (SP) leader in Ayodhya who was among the first to raise the issue on social media, helping bring it to national attention, termed the SIT probe an "eyewash". "A court-monitored probe is required to unearth the irregularities. The SIT probe is an attempt to shield the real culprits," Pandey told *DH*.

Devotees, along with some seers who had been critical of the trust, praised Yogi Adityanath for his handling of the issue and said Champat Rai and Anil Mishra had resigned under pressure from the chief minister. "Yogiji will ensure that the guilty are punished," said Sanjeev Kumar, who had come from Azamgarh.

Amid the raging controversy, residents and seers were equally surprised by how information about the alleged embezzlement was leaked. Some believe it could only have come from an insider, while others attributed it to rivalry between two groups of trust employees.

Many residents believe that, irrespective of the outcome of the SIT probe and police investigation, the episode has already dented Ayodhya's image.

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

A telescope to film the universe

The Vera Rubin Observatory will shoot more than 20 billion galaxies by revisiting each point 800 times in 10 years, writes Kalyan Ray

Filming the world's most extraordinary movie began earlier this week from a desolate mountaintop in Chile under a dark sky, when the Vera Rubin Observatory started its Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST). The ten-year survey is Rubin's signature campaign to create the most comprehensive and cinematic record of the universe in history.

Over the next ten years, Rubin will relentlessly observe the entire southern sky every few nights to create an ultra-wide, ultra-high-definition time-lapse record of the universe. Combining the outputs from an 8.4-m telescope and the largest camera ever built — a 3,200-megapixel digital camera — the survey will allow scientists to explore the dynamic universe in ways never before possible.

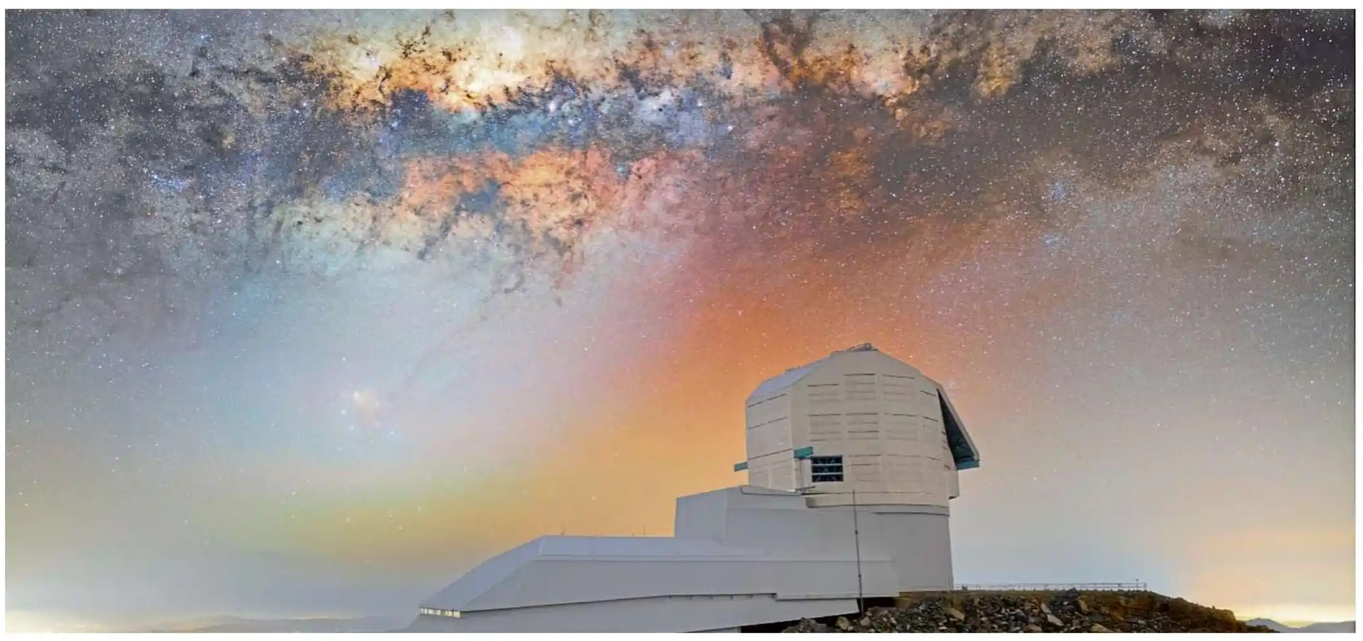
Rubin is bringing the universe to life, illuminating a trove of discoveries: pulsating stars, supernova explosions, the fossil record of galaxies, clues to the mysteries of dark energy and dark matter, and entirely new phenomena that scientists have never seen before.

The reason for a ten-year survey is that some cosmic processes unfold slowly, unpredictably, or incredibly rarely. By returning to each point in the sky 800 times over a decade, Rubin data provides the scientific community with deep, time-rich views needed to uncover subtle events, capture moving objects, and study the accelerating expansion of the universe.

"For every week over the next 10 years, Rubin will shoot half of the visible sky. The science Rubin LSST can deliver is quite broad, ranging from the formation of the solar system, discovering exploding stars, and finding black holes that rip stars apart besides mapping dark matter over half of the sky, or understanding how the Universe is going to evolve in the future," Surhud More, a senior scientist at Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, associated with the LSST programme tells *DH*.

Besides IUCAA, five other Indian institutes are involved in the LSST programme: the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA), Pune; the Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, Pune; the Indian Institute of Technology, Indore; the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.

Hundreds of scientists worldwide have contributed to the observatory's development and will use the data to look at the universe through a new window.



Milky Way glows over Rubin. CREDIT: VERA RUBIN OBSERVATORY

Owned by the USA's Department of Energy and National Science Foundation, the facility is named after pioneering astrophysicist Vera Rubin, who provided the first proof of the existence of dark matter, an invisible, unknown form of matter that makes up about 27% of the universe's total mass and energy.

Dark matter does not absorb, reflect, or emit light; hence, it is completely undetectable by traditional telescopes. Scientists only know it exists because of its immense gravitational pull on ordinary matter, such as stars and galaxies. Together with regular matter (5%) and dark energy (68%), it forms the structural blueprint of the cosmos.

"The LSST can help us create maps of dark matter. We may find out how dark matter is distributed. We can also look at the behaviour of dark energy, which can tell us about the fate of the universe," More notes.

Each night, Rubin collects approximately 10 terabytes of data and produces up to 7 million alerts about changes in the night sky. These alerts stream to alert brokers — automated systems that sort and classify these changes so scientists can act quickly.

Rubin will also advance opportunities for multi-messenger astronomy, which is the study of cosmic events using multiple signals such as light, gravitational waves, and cosmic rays. The observatory's rapid, colour-rich observations of transients such as stellar explosions, actively feeding black holes, and collisions between compact objects will guide telescopes around the world to follow up on these fleeting events.

"The observatory is expected to discover over 10,000 gravitational lenses which show multiple copies of the same distant source, a phenomenon predicted by Albert Einstein which he never thought telescopes could detect," says Anupreeta More, a research faculty at IUCAA, Pune.

"Due to lensing, some of the rare transients like supernovae or kilonovae can appear unusually brighter (lensing magnification) but will also seem to occur more than once, giving us the "deja vu" experience. Such gravitationally lensed transients are not just some magnificent spectacle. They help us in measuring the age and the expansion rate of the universe."

Rubin is also the most powerful Solar System discovery machine ever built.

By taking about a thousand images every night, Rubin is compiling an astonishingly detailed census of our Solar System, including millions of asteroids and comets. In just a month and a half, during early optimisation surveys, Rubin discovered over 11,000 never-before-seen asteroids, including 33 near-Earth objects and 380 trans-Neptunian objects.

One of the new discoveries reported in January is the fastest-ever spinning asteroid, with a diameter over half a kilometre and nearly the size of eight football fields put together. "We will see many such interstellar visitors. It's a discovery machine," says Surhud More.

When the LSST is complete, the final dataset will contain billions of objects with trillions of measurements, all accessible through regular data releases. This is the first time so much astronomical data will be available to so many people, opening the door to new kinds of discovery by both scientists and the public.

"I particularly look forward to the very deep images that will allow us to study as many as 20 billion galaxies of every shape and size, each with its own history of formation and evolution over billions of years," adds Yogesh Wadadekar from NCRA.

DID YOU KNOW?

A gene replacement tactic of survival

A team of researchers from the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo in Argentina has uncovered one of the clearest examples yet of horizontal gene transfer (HGT) in plants — a process in which genes move between unrelated species rather than being inherited from parents, a trait considered rare and usually less significant in complex organisms. Their study focused on Lophophytum, a holoparasitic plant that lacks chlorophyll and cannot perform photosynthesis. Instead, it survives by attaching to the roots of host trees and extracting water, nutrients, and energy from them.

The researchers discovered that Lophophytum has incorporated large amounts of mitochondrial DNA from its host plants. Several of these transferred genes became fully functional and replaced the plant's own native mitochondrial genes. This finding challenges the long-held assumption that foreign genes transferred between plant species rarely become active because they face major barriers to expression and compatibility with the recipient organism's cellular machinery.

To understand how this genetic replacement occurred, the team sequenced and compared the mitochondrial genomes of two Lophophytum species with those of their host plants. They also analysed RNA to determine whether the transferred genes were correctly processed after transcription. Their results showed that the foreign genes could function using the parasite's own cellular mechanisms without relying on regulatory systems from the original host. This means the parasite effectively "adopted" the host genes into its own biology.

The study also identified features that increase the likelihood of successful gene transfer. Natural selection appeared to favour transferred genes that retained their original promoters, lacked introns (non-coding DNA segments that must be removed), and required only minimal RNA editing. These characteristics reduced the molecular hurdles involved in expressing foreign genes, allowing them to replace native ones more easily.

Beyond revealing an extraordinary survival strategy, the research offers new insights into genome evolution and how DNA can move across species boundaries. The scientists now plan to investigate the mechanism by which host DNA is acquired and maintained, including a proposed "circle-mediated HGT" model in which transferred mitochondrial DNA forms self-replicating circular chromosomes within the recipient plant. If confirmed, this mechanism could reshape our understanding of plant evolution and the long-term impact of horizontal gene transfer.
- Phys.org

Mysuru Lit Fest from today

MYSURU, DHNS: The 10th edition of the Mysuru Literature Fest will be held on July 4 and 5 at a private hotel in the city, bringing together acclaimed authors, artists, conservationists and scholars for two days of discussions, book releases and cultural events.

Organised by the Mysuru Literary Forum Charitable Trust and Mysuru Book Clubs Charitable Trust, the festival will feature 44 panel discussions in English and Kannada, centred on themes ranging from conservation of Mysuru's green heritage to reading and writing in the AI era. Eight books will also be released during the festival.

The event will be inaugurated by Pramoda Devi Wadiyar of the erstwhile Mysore royal family, along with authors Amish Tripathi and Aroon Raman, in the presence of festival founder and director Shubha Sanjay Urs.

Padma Shri awardee and private book collector Anke Gowda of Pandavapura and M. Nikhilesh of Kalisu Foundation, known for establishing libraries in government schools, will be honoured.

Sessions on conserving Mysuru's lakes and green heritage will feature retired Major General Sudhir Vombatkere, U N Ravi Kumar and H S Champa, while Bharathi Vishnuvardhan, S V Rajendra Singh Babu, V Nagendra Prasad and Mansore will revisit vintage Kannada cinema. The documentary 'Cauvery: River of Life' by Sanjay Gubbi will be screened, and Gandhada Gudi by Amogh Varsha will be released by MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar.

Saturday's programme includes sessions by Shatavadhani Ganesh, T M Krishna, Capt G R Gopinath, Vivek Shanbhag, Jonathan Gil Harris and others on literature.

Bail bar: SC refuses to consider Darshan's plea for clarification

Website shows case as disposed of; no written order

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has declined to entertain a plea by Kannada actor Darshan for clarification on May 15, 2026 order that held he was not eligible for bail for one year in the Renukaswamy murder case.

A Registrar court dismissed his application at the time of scrutiny by holding that his application was seeking review of the judgment in the guise of seeking modification, it is learnt.

The case status of his application on the SC's website showed as disposed of, and no written order was available over there.

In an application, the actor has urged the court to clarify that the order was not meant to impose an absolute embargo on competent courts or constitutional courts from considering any subsequent developments that may warrant relief, in line with established principles of law.

He urged the apex court to make it clear that he would be entitled to seek appropriate relief in the event of lack of meaningful progress in the trial, prolonged incarceration, examination of only formal witnesses, continued pendency of crucial prosecution evidence, medical exigencies, humanitarian grounds or any other supervening circumstances affecting his personal liberty.

The plea stated that Darshan has been in continuous custody since August 2025, when the Supreme Court cancelled his bail.

"At no point has the applicant attempted to delay the proceedings or obstruct the progress of trial. The applicant has throughout cooperated with the judicial process and has remained available to face trial in accordance with law," the application read.

On May 15, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Vijay Bishnoi, while rejecting Darshan's bail plea, had directed the trial court to conduct the proceedings on a day-to-day basis, beginning with the examination of 60 important witnesses.

The bench had observed that though the trial was progressing slowly, the actor was not entitled to bail for one year.

"The liberty granted by this court after one year was intended to be an additional safeguard available to the applicant and not an exclusion of remedies otherwise available in law," the application emphasised.

He had also highlighted the impact of his prolonged incarceration on his livelihood, profession and family.

Vehicles struggle to negotiate the flooded rail underpass at Bajal in Mangaluru. Heavy rains lashed the city on Friday evening after spells of light showers in the day. DH PHOTO/FAKRUDDIN H

Heavy showers batter Belagavi, Kodagu districts

Maha rains spur Ghataprabha, Malaprabha rivers

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy showers, coupled with strong winds, lashed several parts of Belagavi and Kodagu district while the intensity of rain came down drastically in coastal districts on Friday. Many parts of north and south interior Karnataka continued to see spells of light to moderate showers in the day.

Traffic on Belagavi-Talguppa state highway was stalled for over four hours on Friday after a massive tree came crashing on the highway near Nandgad in Khanapur taluk. Two bike riders survived the falling tree by a split second. They managed to jump off their bikes but the vehicles were severely damaged in the incident.

Meanwhile, relentless rains in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra and forest areas in Khanapur taluk have spurred water levels in Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Pandari and Mahadayi and rivers. The Hidkal dam across the Ghataprabha river has started receiving inflow. The dam clocked an inflow of 558 cusec on Friday.

Harangi reservoir became the first reservoir in the state to clock 1,000-plus cusec inflow this season. The dam recorded an inflow of 1,113 cusec on Friday. Its catchment areas in Kodagu district have been experiencing heavy showers for the past two days.

Several parts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts and in isolated places of north and south interior Karnataka also received intermittent spells of light to moderate rains on Friday.

Community participation boosts school's prospects here

BELAGAVI, DHNS

In a remarkable example of community participation, residents of Karikatti village in Belagavi district make a donation to the local government schools either in memory of a dear one or to mark an auspicious occasion. This community initiative has resulted in the schools collecting a cosy little nest egg, funds from which are being used to give out cash rewards to achievers every year.

Bereaved families make an announcement declaring the amount they are going to contribute to either the Government Model Primary School or the Government High School at the funeral of the departed family member. Apart from the locals, teachers who worked at the two schools but got transferred also continue to make contributions in the interest of the schools' future.

The money thus collected, around Rs 13 lakh so far, is secured in a fixed deposit account saved at a nationalised bank under the headmaster's name, and the interest accrued on the amount is used to distribute cash rewards to the student achievers. Strong community participation in the schools has also resulted in enrolment surging.

Among the more notable donations made to the school was by Dr Jyoti Jeevannavar, who gave a smart board worth Rs 1.23 lakh in her father Vishveshwar Mokashi's memory. Similarly, Umesh Bali, a Singapore resident, deposited Rs 35,000 in his father's memory, besides distributing Rs 10,000 in reward money to the school's three top scorers in the SSLC examination every year.

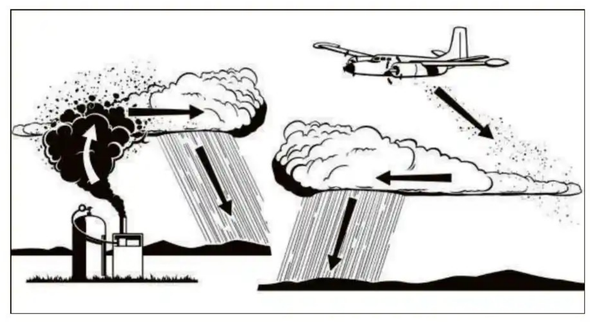
Students attend the morning assembly at Government Model Primary School at Karikatti village in Savadatti taluk in Belagavi district. DH PHOTO

In-charge headmaster of the primary school Shambulingappa Dodwad said, "The primary school, which houses 420 students from LKG to class seven, was established in 1857. One of our former teachers M C Patted started the practice of making fixed deposits in 1986. He inspired the villagers to do the same."

Y M Shivabasannavar, headmaster of the high school, which was established in 1994, said that the first donation of Rs 10,000 was made by Veerabhadra Jakati in 1996. The school currently boasts a strength of 353 students studying in classes eight to ten.

Chairman of the Primary School Development Management Committee Babu Javoor said, "The interest accrued on these deposits is used exclusively for rewarding the achievers, and not for improving the school's infrastructure."

Karikatti resident Jawahar Uppar said that villagers also made donations to the schools for organising various programmes.



Cloud seeding in Haveri district from July 7

HAVERI, DHNS

In the wake of scanty rainfall this monsoon so far, six MLAs from Haveri district have decided to foot the bill for cloud seeding in the district. The experiment is proposed to begin on July 7.

Kyathi Climate Modification Consultants LLP, in which Ranebennur MLA Prakash Koliwad is a partner, has obtained conditional permission from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to conduct cloud seeding. Koliwad said he and five other MLAs from the district will bear the expenses of the initiative. The company has also urged the government to grant permission to take up cloud seeding across the state.

As the application for statewide cloud seeding is under verification, the initiative will be taken up in Haveri district, said Koliwad, who attended the disaster management review meeting held here on Friday.

"An application to the DGCA was submitted a month ago, and it has now granted permission that allows cloud seeding in any part of the country. The cloud seeding aircraft will be operated from Hubballi airport after two days of training for pilots. Based on scientists' suggestions regarding the location of rain-bearing clouds, the exercise is planned to be taken up in Ranebennur, Haveri, Byadgi, Hirekerur, Rattihalli, Hangal, Shiggaon and Savanur taluks from July 7," he told reporters.

Stating that the plan is to conduct cloud seeding for three days in the eight taluks, Koliwad said the expenditure would be around Rs 15 lakh per hour. "This is not funded by the government. Five other MLAs and I will bear the expenses in the interest of farmers," he added.

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi said the government is considering statewide cloud seeding as the situation may become more grim in the coming days.

A cloud seeding initiative by PKK Initiatives, an NGO promoted by Prakash Koliwad, was also taken up in Haveri district in 2023. Kyathi Climate Modification Consultants had also conducted cloud seeding in Belagavi district in 2023, funded by Belgaum Sugars owned by minister Satish Jarkiholi. In 2019, the state government itself implemented the 'Varshadhare' cloud seeding programme in drought-affected districts.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – TIPTUR
TUMKUR DIST.
For Tender Details KPPP Portal Website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
No: CMC/Tip/Tech/CR/100/2026-27 Dated:30.06.2026.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

As per KTTP Act 1999-2000 Rule 2000, Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Tiptur was invited Tender for Works under grants from eligible contractors who was registered in Public Works Department Tenderer can participate Tender for the following works in KPPP Portal website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) Note: For more Information contact office during working hours.

KPPP Portal					
Sl. no	WORK INDENT	Tender cost (Rs. Lakhs)	EMD Rs	Last Date of Tender	Date for Opening Tender
1	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT60432	87.50	1,75,000/-	06.08.2026	07.08.2026
2	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT60050	80.00	1,60,000/-	06.08.2026	07.08.2026

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
CMC Tiptur
DIPR/TUM/RO-66/26-27/Oysters

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR
No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-1&2/e-Tender/2026-27/ 794 Dated: 29.06.2026

Short Term e-Tender Notification

1)Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-3 & 4 Karnataka Public Works Department invited item Rate Tender under KPPP Portal in Two Cover System from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following works Under CMIDP Programme & 5054 KRDCL for the year 2025-26 Under Yadgir Taluka (1)36253, (2)36741 & Shorapur Taluka (1)32928/call-2, Total 03 (Three) works Tender Called **2)Amount Put to Tender :** Miminimum Rs 40.00 Lakhs and Maximum Rs.120.00 Lakhs **3) Contractor Eligible Details:**Civil Class-III & Above **4)Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details:**Tender Fee, EMD & Period as per kppp portal, **5) Last Date & Time for Tender Pre-Bid Meeting:** 01.07.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **6)Last Date & Time for Tender queries/Clarification :** 04.07.2026 (Upto 17.30 hrs) **7) Last Date & Time for Reciept of the tender in e-KPPP portal :**09.07.2026 (Upto 16.00 hrs) **8) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/Technical Bid:** 10.07.2026 (16.30 hrs Onwards) **9) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid:** 13.07.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **10) For More Details Contact:** Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division : Yadgir. **11) Website Address:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
NOTE: Any Corrections / Changes will be updated in the kppp Portal only

DIP/YDG/137/KSMC&A/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Yadgir.

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floor, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bangalore - 560001
Ph: 080-25586550/25586402, Email: info@ksicsilk.com
No. KSIC/PR/ITEMS/01/2026-27 Date: 03.07.2026

NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

Re-Tenders are invited through KPP Portal from Manufacturers/Dealers for the below detailed items:

Sl No	Particulars	EMD (In Rs.)	Last Date and Time for uploading the Tender	Technical Bids Opening Date and Time
1.	Re-Tender for Supply of Formic Acid - 5,005 Kgs	10,300	18.07.2026 by 03.00 PM	20.07.2026 @ 03.30 PM
	Supply of TATA Brand Soda Ash - 5,200 Kgs	5,000		
2.	Re Tender for Procurement of 222 Tins (15 Kgs. each) of KCOGF or Equivalent Brand Coconut oil for a duration of six months for KSIC, SWF Mysuru and SWU Channapatna	28,500	13.07.2026 by 03.00 PM	14.07.2026 @ 03.30 PM
3.	Re-Tender for Supply of 600 Kgs of Sara Guard 2875 for KSIC, SWF, Mysuru Unit	17,000	18.07.2026 by 03.00 PM	20.07.2026 @ 03.30 PM
4.	Re-Tender for Entrusting Work towards Re-Routing of Soft Water Line From Softener Unit to Dyeing, Soaking And VHS Sections at SWF, Mysuru Unit	12,000	18.07.2026 by 03.00 PM	20.07.2026 @ 03.30 PM

Tender Documents, details of the Notification, schedule terms & conditions can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.** Further details can be had from the office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal - helpdesk-080-46010000 and 080-68948777.

DIPR/CP/1423/NR/2026-27
Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (PROCUREMENT)

NORTH WESTERN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION CENTRAL OFFICES, HUBBALLI
TRAFFIC SECTION CENTRAL OFFICES, HUBBALLI-580030 E-mail: cosp.nwkrtc@karnataka.gov.in
NWKRTC/TRF/COM/1849 Dated: 03/07/2026.

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION-01/26

Tenders are invited through e-portal for the Selection of Agency for grant of various Advertisement Rights of NWKRTC from the interested Qualified Bidders.

Sl. No.	Advertisement	Place	MLF (per Bus per Month in Rs.)	MLF (Total in Rs.)	EMD in Rs.	Period
1	2500 Buses	Agency for grant of Advertisement Rights on Full Bus	5,000/-	1,25,00,000	3,75,00,000	5 Year
2	2500 Buses	Agency for grant of Advertisement Rights on Inside and Outside of buses	2,240/-	56,00,000	1,68,00,000	5 Year
3	2500 Buses	Agency for grant of Advertisement Rights on 1000 Full Bus & 1500 Inside and Outside of buses	7,240/- (Rs.5000*1000 Buses) & (Rs.2240*1500 Buses)	83,60,000	2,50,80,000	5 Year

The Application Fee, Terms & Conditions, Eligibility Criteria and other requirement details can be downloaded from the e-portal website: kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 04-07-2026 in the e-portal.

1.Calendar of events: Description: 1. Pre bid meeting Date: 15-07-2026 at 11:00 2. Last date of Submission of Bids date: 23-07-2026 at 17:00 3. Opening of Technical Bid date: 25-07-2026 at 11:00 4. Opening of Financial Bid date: 28-07-2026 at 15:00

2. The Financial Bids of the Bidders, who have qualified in Technical Bid will only be opened. 3.The Terms & Conditions, Eligibility Criteria and other requirement details can be downloaded from the e-portal website: kppp.karnataka.gov.in 4. **NWKRTC** reserves the right to accept or reject tenders without assigning any reason thereof. 5. For more information contact **Chief Traffic Manager-7760991504, Dy.Chief Traffic Manager-7760998504, ATM Com-7760992098.** 6. **Email - support@eprochelpdesk.com**

DIPR/Dharwad/378/Manipal/2026-27
Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager
Central Offices, Gokul Road, Hubballi-30

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಯಾದಗಿರ.
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್, ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಎನ್.ವಿ.ಎಮ್. ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಎದರುಗಡೆ, ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ–585202.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ಕಕಪ್ರಅಮಂ/ಅಅ/ತಾಶಾ–1/2026–27/583 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.07.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1 ಅಕ್ಷರ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್‌ಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:SHAHAPUR TALUKA 08 PACKAGE1.PackageNoYDG-SHP-01(2Works)RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26842 2.Package NoYDG-SHP-02 (5 Works) RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26844 3.Package No YDG-SHP-03 (6 Works) RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26845 4.Package No YDG-SHP-04 (08 Works) RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26846 5.Package No YDG-SHP-05 (03 Works) RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26847 6.Package No YDG-SHP-06 (4 Works) RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT27462 7.Package No YDG-SHP-07 (5 Works) RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT27478 8.Package No YDG-SHP-08 (6 Works) RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT27480 2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ (ಅಕ್ಷರ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ) ಯೋಜನೆ 3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 15.41 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 57.29 ಲಕ್ಷ 4)ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ: 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು 5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.07.2026 ರಿಂದ 13.07.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ : ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) 7)ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.07.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 8)ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ : 15.07.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11.00 ನಂತರ 9)ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್: 22.07.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11.00 ನಂತರ 10) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ): ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಎನ್.ವಿ.ಎಮ್. ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಎದರುಗಡೆ, ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ–585202 11) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

ಸೂಚನೆ :– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/140/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ&ಎ/2026–27 ಯಾದಗಿರ.

Govt of Karnataka
O/o Executive Engineer, PWD, Udupi Division
Udupi - 576101. C.No : (0820) 2531802
No.PWD:UDN:NIT-07:2026-27:AE-2 Dated: 03.07.2026

Short term Tender Notification

It is here by notified for the information of intending eligible registered contractor in Karnataka PWD, through e-portal **"kppp.karnataka.gov.in"** as per Karnataka tranperency in public procurement act - 2023, as per specified terms & condition notified there in. The Last date for submission of tender on **20.07.2026** through E-procurement portal **"kppp.karnataka.gov.in"** under **5054-80-190-0-01-132** head, 2 works costing **Rs. 367.46 and 379.23 Lakhs (excluding GST)** for KRDCL Brdige Works. For more information contact office during office hours.

DIPR/ADU/KSMCA/203/26-27 Dt: 03.07.2026
Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
Public works department
Udupi Division, Udupi.

IN BRIEF

8 held in Gujarat for 'promoting' JeM ideology

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad on Friday arrested eight individuals for allegedly promoting the ideology of terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). The police said the suspects were arrested from different places in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh following "confidential information".

Aadhaar email update via app

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Unique Identification Authority of India has introduced a free facility to add or update email IDs directly through its new mobile application, eliminating the need for residents to visit an Aadhaar centre. The service became effective from July 1 and will remain free for a period of six months.

Siya, Chetan in judicial custody

MUMBAI, DHNS: A court in Pune on Friday sent Siya Goyal and Chetan Chaudhary to two-week judicial custody in the Lohagad Fort murder case. They will be produced before the court on July 16 on expiry of the remand. The duo was arrested for pushing businessman Ketan Agarwal to death from the cliff of Lohagad Fort on June 18.

No SC stay on Sonam's bail

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday declined to stay the bail granted to Sonam Raghuvanshi, the prime accused in the murder of her husband, Raja Raghuvanshi, during their honeymoon in Meghalaya in May 2025, even as the bench expressed strong reservations over the high court's order.

Class X student abducts senior

PATNA: A Class 10 student of St Michael High School and two of his friends abducted a Class 11 student when the latter had come to the school to collect his mark-sheet and the migration certificate. However, as the police mounted pressure, the student was released and abandoned near the school campus.

CBI arrests 3 in Rs 2-cr scam

NEW DELHI, PTI: Three men who were allegedly involved in conning a Jalandhar-based retired government employee and taking Rs 2.07 crore from him in a "digital arrest" scam have been arrested by the CBI, officials said on Friday. Of the arrested, Bibekananda Dixit and Jayant Kumar Acharya are from Odisha, and Kanhaiya Lal from Rajasthan.

Relief for Delhi power discoms

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In a relief to Delhi's three private power distribution companies, the Supreme Court on Friday stayed the CAG's audit of their accounts and ordered maintenance of status quo while it examines the legality of appointing the national auditor. A bench of Justices K V Viswanathan and Shree Chandrashekhar passed the interim order on a petition filed by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission challenging a ruling of the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity.

Rijiju rues cash for vote practice

KOLKATA, PTI: Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday rued the distribution of cash to voters during polls in some parts of the country and said, "A new trend has emerged now... Such undemocratic practice must be stopped."

Meta to be summoned over Insta ads promoting child sexual abuse

Tech company team meets IT Ministry officials over WhatsApp usernames

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has directed officials to summon Meta — the parent company of several social-media platforms — over advertisements on Instagram that promote child sexual abuse material (CSAM), said government sources on Friday.

The IT Ministry is expected to seek a detailed explanation from the Big Tech firm — also the parent company of Facebook, WhatsApp, Threads, and other platforms — regarding the lapse and demand immediate corrective action. This is the second time this week that the government has taken strong action against Meta.

On Wednesday, the Central government issued a formal notice to Meta questioning its planned username feature on WhatsApp, citing serious concerns that it could significantly increase online fraud, phishing, digital arrest scams, and impersonation attacks.

The government directed Meta to immediately pause the rollout of the feature until consultations are completed to its satisfaction.

It also asked the platform to explain why action should not be initiated against it under the IT Act and relevant rules.

The Central government reminded Meta that WhatsApp, as a significant social media intermediary, must strictly adhere to due diligence obligations under Indian law.

The latest move on Instagram follows a BBC investigation that exposed how Meta's recommendation algorithms were promoting videos containing CSAM.

Double trouble

News report exposed how Meta's recommendation algorithms were promoting videos containing CSAM

Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has directed officials to summon Meta regarding lapse

On Wednesday, Central govt issued formal notice to Meta over its planned username feature on WhatsApp

Policy violation

The report also revealed that advertisements of this nature were appearing on both Facebook and Instagram, in clear violation of Meta's own advertising policies that prohibit nudity and sexually explicit content.

Meanwhile, a team from Meta met IT Ministry officials on Friday following the Central government notice over its proposed username feature on WhatsApp, sources said.

The US-based company is expected to submit its detailed explanation within the stipulated three-day timeline given by the government, sources said.

Consensus in Centre, Ladakh talks

Agreement on elected UT body with law-making powers

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The Centre and Ladakh's civil society leadership on Friday reached a major breakthrough, agreeing in principle to create an elected Union Territory-level body with executive, financial and legislative powers — the first such consensus since Ladakh became a UT in 2019.

The agreement was reached after Union Home Ministry Additional Secretary Prashant Lokhande met representatives of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) to finalise the minutes of the sub-committee meeting held on May 22 under the Ministry's High-Powered Committee.

The breakthrough comes weeks after talks hit a roadblock, with LAB refusing to sign the earlier draft minutes, alleging that key decisions had been omitted. The impasse had triggered protests in Leh and Kargil.

According to the agreed minutes, both sides decided that while statehood would remain Ladakh's long-term aspiration, the immediate priority would be to establish a customised elected UT-level body with executive, financial and legislative powers.

The proposed body will also exercise control over officials handling subjects under its jurisdiction, including supervision of their Annual Performance Appraisal Reports (APARs).

DEAL SEALED

- Talks held between Centre and representatives of Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance
- All agree in principle to create elected Union Territory-level body with executive, financial and legislative powers
- Finer details will be worked out in subsequent meetings

The finer details will be worked out in subsequent meetings.

The two sides also agreed to evolve a special constitutional framework for Ladakh by adopting a sui generis model inspired by Article 371, instead of replicating safeguards available to any other state.

A draft defining the body's powers and its relationship with the Hill Development Councils and Panchayati Raj Institutions will be prepared for further discussions.

Ladakh has been without an elected legislature since it was carved out of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir and made a separate Union Territory in August 2019.

While Friday's agreement does not concede statehood or Sixth Schedule status, it marks the first formal consensus between the Centre and Ladakh's leadership on creating a representative UT-level body.

Rebels take over Trinamool 'fort'

KOLKATA, PTI

The battle for control of the Trinamool Congress entered a new phase on Friday with the rebel faction led by Leader of the Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee taking possession of the party's 'fort' — the organisational headquarters in Kolkata — a day after staking its claim to the party's name and symbol before the Election Commission.

The Metropolitan office has served as the party's operational headquarters since 2022, when the Trinamool Congress shifted there after its original office on EM Bypass was taken up for reconstruction. By moving into the premises, the dissidents sought to reinforce their claim to organisational legitimacy amid an escalating battle with the Mamata Banerjee-led faction.

Accompanied by senior leaders, including Firhad Hakim, Javed Khan, Sandipan Saha and Akhruzzaman, Ritabrata visited the office and held a meeting there, asserting that his camp represented the "real" Trinamool Congress.

Leaders of the faction said they had completed the necessary agreement with the owners of the premises and would henceforth function from the office.

"We are the Trinamool Congress and this office belongs to the Trinamool Congress. There is an emotional connection between the party and this office," Akhruzzaman told reporters.

The development comes amid an intensifying tussle between the Ritabrata-led faction and the camp loyal to former chief minister Mamata Banerjee, with both sides claiming to be the legitimate Trinamool Congress following the party's defeat in the recent assembly elections.

TMC MLA Kunal Ghosh and leader Baiswanor Chatterjee outside the Trinamool Bhavan, in Kolkata, on Friday. PTI

While the confrontation has so far centred on rival organisational claims, resolutions and legal arguments, Friday's move carried considerable political symbolism, with the dissidents seeking to establish their presence at the office from where the party has been operating since 2022.

The latest move follows Thursday's meeting between a delegation led by Ritabrata and the full bench of the Election Commission in New Delhi.

The Commission wrote to both factions, asking them to submit their claims and counter-claims regarding organisational elections, authorised signatories and control of the party by 5.30 pm on July 6.

HC direction to Mamata on July 21 rally

KOLKATA, PTI: The Calcutta High Court on Friday directed Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee and general secretary Abhishek Banerjee to file affidavits in a contempt petition alleging violation of the court's direction on blocking arterial roads during the party's July 21 Martyrs' Day rally in 2025.

The petitioner alleged contempt of the high court's order of May 2018, which had directed that public meetings or gatherings on thoroughfares must not cause blockage of the road.

A division bench presided by Justice Arijit Banerjee directed Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee to file affidavits within four weeks stating their position over the allegation in the contempt petition.

Oppn urges apex court to halt SIR

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The I.N.D.I.A bloc on Friday claimed that the electoral democracy faces the "gravest threat from the Modi-Shah regime", as it released a joint Opposition letter to the Supreme Court in which it demanded the suspension of the impending Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the "serious consideration" of a return to ballot papers.

The eight-page letter, signed by 24 Opposition parties and independent MP Kapil Sibal, which was sent to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant last Tuesday, warned that the future of democracy is fraught with "grave consequences" when institutions themselves become "instruments of oppression" and carry forward the agenda of the government.

Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal said, "Electoral democracy in our country faces the gravest threat from the Modi-Shah regime... releasing this letter, in the interest of transparency, and in the hope that the Supreme Court will take the firm steps urgently required to restore the integrity, accountability of, and faith in the election process..."

K C VENUGOPAL
Congress General Secretary

"Electoral democracy in our country faces the gravest of threats from the Modi-Shah regime... Releasing this letter, in the interest of transparency

The 2,080-word letter raised questions about the SIR, which it described as a "monumental disaster", the "brazenly biased conduct" of the EC and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), among other things. It said the signatories also believed the recent elections in Delhi, Haryana and Maharashtra were "manipulated", while raising questions about the outcome in West Bengal.

Blaming the EC

The letter claimed that there has been "open, unabashed support of the BJP" by the EC "during the course of and in the outcome of electoral processes".

It said the EC has "not been even-handed" by choosing not to act when the Model Code of Conduct is breached and maintaining a "stoic silence" when "openly toxic, communal" statements are made by BJP leaders.

Calling the SIR the "unkindest cut", the letter rubbished the "political rhetoric" seeking to rationalise the exercise centred on the alleged infiltration of Bangladeshis into electoral rolls and claimed no data could be provided after the Bihar elections.

RSS trying to cover up temple scam, says Congress

NEW DELHI/BHOPAL/LUCKNOW, DHNS & PTI: The Congress on Friday described the RSS' statement on the alleged embezzlement of Ram Temple donations, which called for strict action against those responsible, as a "nefarious attempt to cover up" the truth and protect the "fraudulent outfit's" image.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh posted on X, "The clean chit given by the RSS is disgraceful and shameful. The fact is 'chanda chori' (donation theft) on a large scale by people very much a part of its network has taken place."

In the RSS' first statement on the issue, its general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said they were all "extremely pained and angered" by the incident, while insisting that it was "essential" to ensure that anyone found guilty faced "severe punishment".

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Friday announced a "non-political" padyatra from Ujjain's Mahakal Temple to Ayodhya on October 2 to protest the alleged theft.

Protest and pressure

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray will launch a protest against the alleged embezzlement from the Hanuman temple in Mumbai's Dadar on Sunday. Uddhav's father, Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray, was one of the pillars of the Ram Janmabhoomi stir.

Meanwhile, former BJP MP and firebrand right-wing leader Vinay Katiyar on Friday claimed he was "in touch" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the alleged embezzlement, and that Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai, member Anil Mishra, and Gopal Rao might be arrested soon.

Defence procurement worth Rs 52k crore approved

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Defence Ministry on Friday approved procuring arms and ammunition — including anti-unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) electronic warfare equipment and very-short-range air-defence systems (VSHORDS) — worth Rs 52,000 crore for the army, naval UAVs and high-altitude pseudo-satellites for the Indian Air Force.

Other key approvals include indigenous man-portable anti-tank guided missiles and medium-range surface-to-air missiles for the Army and multi-influence ground mines that take away the enemy's manoeuvring advantage for the Navy, official sources said.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded these proposals' Acceptance-of-Necessity (AoN), the first step in India's defence procurement, The Finance Ministry and the Cabinet Committee on Security's nods follow.

This was the first DAC attended by the new Chief of Defence Staff Gen N S Raja Subramani, Chief of the Army Staff Gen Dhiraj Seth, and Admiral Krishna Swaminathan.

For the Army, procurement of anti-UAV electronic warfare system Akash Tarang, medium-range surface-to-air missile weapon system, VSHORADS, active protection system for tanks, and jet-based kamikaze drones was okayed.

New orders

Anti-UAV electronic warfare equipment, VSHORDS, indigenous man-portable anti-tank guided missiles for Army

Navy to get multi-influence ground mines

IAF to get high-altitude pseudo-satellites

DMK MLA arrested over remarks on Vijay

CHENNAI, DHNS: Former DMK minister Anitha R Radhakrishnan was arrested on Friday for his allegedly derogatory remarks about Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's personal life, within an hour of the Madras High Court dismissing his anticipatory bail plea.

Anitha R Radhakrishnan

The DMK leadership, including its president M K Stalin and Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin, condemned the Tiruchendur MLA's arrest.

Port deal may face legal scrutiny as Adani, Kerala differ

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The row over the Adani Group's move to sell a 49% stake in Kerala's Vizhinjam International Seaport project to Switzerland-based Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) is likely to face legal scrutiny, as the state government and the group offer contradictory interpretations of the agreement provisions.

The Kerala government contends that selling more than 25% of shares requires its approval, as it amounts to an ownership change. The Adani Group says it can sell up to 74%, since the deal stipulates that it needs to hold only a 26% stake one year after the project's commissioning.

Even as the Adani Group's disclosure to Sebi lists June 29 as the date of its sale agreement with MSC, it also notes that the transaction is subject to customary nods, including regulatory clearances. It is facing criticism that the sale was initiated without obtaining the Centre's and the state government's approvals.

Meanwhile, reports suggested the state government could examine termination clauses in the concessionaire agreement between Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited and the state. However, sources said the government doesn't intend to make any hasty moves.

DMK leader moves top court to restrain TN CM in stampede case

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In an escalation of the political fallout from the Karur stampede tragedy, DMK organising secretary RS Bharathi has moved the Supreme Court seeking to be impleaded in the case and to impose strict restrictions on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, Minister Aadhav Arjuna and other accused persons.

The application urged the SC to bar them from making public statements on the CBI probe or engaging with victims' families while the investigation is underway, citing risks of influencing witnesses.

The September 27, 2025, stampede during a public meeting organised by Vijay's TVK claimed 41 lives.

Bharathi has sought multiple reliefs to safeguard the integrity of the probe, including directions to the state government to extend jobs and welfare measures to victims' families only after placing the proposal before the CBI. He has also urged the court to direct the CBI to register a case against Minister Aadhav Arjuna, alleging that his remarks amount to influencing witnesses.

RADIOCARBON RECORD

World's oldest scientifically-dated banyan tree is in Bihar

Bihar forest officials in front of the Munger Banyan. BSIP

NEW DELHI, DHNS

A tree in Bihar's Munger has been identified as the world's oldest scientifically-dated banyan. Radiocarbon dating puts its age at around 700 years, the Department of Science and Technology — which works under the Union Ministry of Science and Technology — said here on Friday.

The finding contradicts earlier assumptions that the Munger banyan was around 300-350 years old and was planted in front of the historic "Burra Bunglow" — a venue for dialogue between rulers and common citizens as well as a site for village assemblies, religious ceremonies, and cultural exchanges.

The research by scientists from Lucknow's Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) established that the tree is likely a surviving remnant of what was once a natural forest and a possible witness to the building's construction.

Bihar Forest Department officials approached the BSIP team nearly four years ago after the Bihar Biodiversity Board examined 32 ancient trees and identified some of them for further examination to fix their antiquity.

"We sampled the tree in 2022. The results were published two months ago. The analysis took a lot of time. We are examining another site in Bihar as well as sites in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh," BSIP scientist Trina Bose, who led the team, told *DH*.

Banyan trees, with their intricate root and branch networks, provide habitats for a variety of wildlife, including birds and insects. They have also played a significant role in social and cultural life for centuries. Their age estimation traditionally relied on folklore, local stories, or historical records, which were often inaccurate.

Govt orders removal of Chinese apps after e-rickshaw glitches

Move comes amid growing concerns over cybersecurity vulnerabilities in EVs

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Ministry of Electronics and IT has ordered the removal of three Chinese mobile applications — BAT-BMS, Lossigy, and Epoch-i-ion — from app stores after they were allegedly misused to remotely shut down battery-operated vehicles, official sources said on Friday.

The move comes amid growing concerns over cybersecurity vulnerabilities in electric mobility systems. It follows a spate of viral social media videos showing electric rickshaws being rendered inoperable by individuals using remote shutdown features linked primarily to the BAT-BMS application.

These three apps were found facilitating unauthorised remote disabling of vehicles and have been directed to be taken down immediately.

Authorities also plan to block any other applications enabling similar misuse and are engaging with app marketplace operators to prevent distribution of potentially harmful tools.

BAT-BMS, developed by China's Shenzhen Grenergy Technology Co. Ltd., is a Bluetooth-enabled battery management system (BMS) application that allows users to monitor and control lithium battery packs. It displays parameters such as charge level, voltage, current, and temperature and can manage charging and discharge functions. The app operates within a roughly 15-metre Bluetooth range and can connect to multiple batteries simultaneously.

Similar functionalities are offered by Lossigy and Epoch-i-ion (Epoch Li-ion), which are also used with Bluetooth-enabled lithium batteries. Reports indicate that many low-cost e-rickshaws use BMS units with weak or no authentication mechanisms. This allowed pranksters within Bluetooth range to pair with the battery, disable the discharge output, and immobilise the vehicle.

In some cases, individuals reportedly offered to "fix" the stranded vehicles for a fee after reactivating them. The incidents have raised serious questions about the security safeguards in affordable electric vehicles and battery systems.

Earlier on Friday, IT Secretary S Krishnan stated that the government would take up the matter with app stores to ensure potentially harmful applications are not made available to users.

SC issues norms for accident compensation based on income

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a significant ruling that is expected to streamline motor accident compensation claims, the Supreme Court has laid down clear guidelines for assessing the income of deceased or injured persons under the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, differentiating between salaried and self-employed individuals.

For salaried persons, the Income Tax Return (ITR) of the preceding year alone is sufficient to determine annual income, while for self-employed individuals and business owners, the average income from ITRs of up to the previous three years should be considered as the reference point, the apex court held.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kotiswar Singh observed that determination of compensation in fatal accident cases "is not an exact science but a rough estimate" aimed at ensuring fair and reasonable recompense to the victims' families. The court emphasised that while ITRs were important statutory documents, there could not be a rigid formula, and courts must account for the nature of employment and business realities.

The judgment is expected to bring greater consistency and fairness in motor accident claims across the country, reducing arbitrary variations in income assessment by tribunals and high courts.

It strikes a balance between relying on official tax records and accounting for real-world business dynamics, especially for self-employed individuals.

The July 1 ruling came on an appeal by Rashmirekha Tripathy, wife of Manoranjan Pandey, a 39-year-old construction businessman who died in a road accident in 2018. Pandey was earning around Rs 15 lakh per annum.

The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal had awarded over Rs 2.27 crore in compensation based on his ITR for Assessment Year 2018-19. The insurance company's appeal led the Orissa HC to reduce it to about Rs 1.88 crore by lowering annual income to Rs 13.33 lakh.

Govt rebuttal after ethanol misinformation on social media

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government on Friday issued a detailed rebuttal to what it described as misinformation circulating on social media about the country's E20 ethanol blending programme, rejecting claims ranging from excessive water consumption and engine damage to insurance invalidation and environmental harm.

In a 10-point clarification, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said the programme, under which petrol contains up to 20% ethanol, is supported by scientific studies, international experience and regulatory safeguards.

Rejecting claims that producing one litre of ethanol consumes 10,000 litres of water, the ministry said only surplus rice, cleared after meeting national food security requirements, is diverted for ethanol production.

It added that ethanol distilleries consume about 3-5 litres of processed water per litre of ethanol and increasingly operate Zero Liquid Discharge systems to recycle water.

It also dismissed assertions that E20 is an untested fuel, noting that ethanol-blended fuels have been used internationally for decades.

Addressing concerns over vehicle performance, the ministry said Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)-led trials covering about 40,000 kilometres in passenger cars and 20,000 kilometres in two-wheelers found no significant adverse impact on drivability or fuel efficiency.

Govt orders farmer support amid weak monsoon due to El Nino

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday directed officials to remain vigilant and coordinate with state governments to support farmers, particularly in kharif sowing, amid below-normal monsoon conditions.

The government is closely monitoring rainfall and potential drought conditions in parts of the country triggered by El Nino, Shah said on Friday after a high-level review meeting.

Shah, along with Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, assessed the impact of deficient monsoon rains on agriculture. The meeting emphasised ensuring adequate electricity supply to farmers, continuous monitoring of water levels in all reservoirs, and promoting low-water-requiring crops, a statement said.

Amit Shah

India recorded a significant rainfall deficit of about 40% in June, with central parts of the country the worst hit at 50.4% below normal. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast below-normal rainfall for July as well. As a result, kharif crop sowing has declined by 23% to 182.72 lakh hectares as of June 25.

"The government is monitoring the situation regarding below-normal rainfall and potential drought conditions in certain parts of the country due to El Nino," Shah said.

MISCELLANY

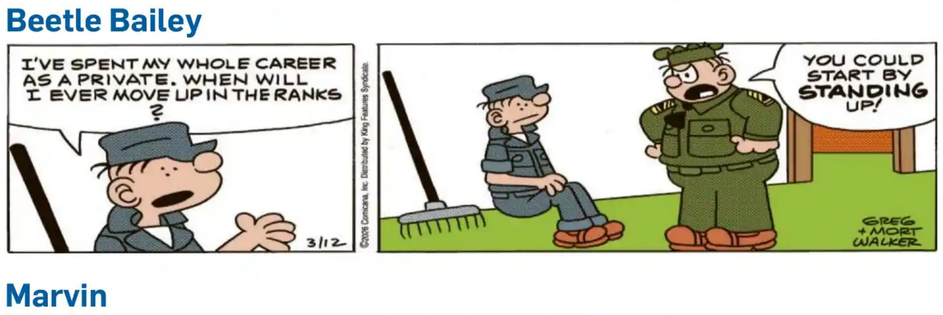
◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

I GOT AN A+++ WITH HONORS ON MY HISTORICAL BIO REPORT, DAD!
WOW! CONGRATS, SON!
WHO DID YOU WRITE ABOUT?
SOMEONE WE KNOW WELL...
JUAN SUENO, INVENTOR OF THE SNOOZE ALARM!
I'M SO PROUD!

Hagar The Horrible

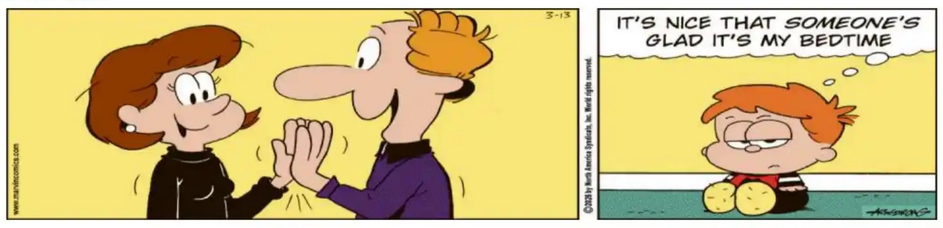
Beetle Bailey



Peanuts

HERE'S THE WORLD WAR I FLYING ACE STROLLING DOWN A COUNTRY ROAD... ONCE AGAIN HE SEES THE CHARMING FRENCH LASS..
QUICKLY HE CONSULTS HIS PHRASE BOOK... "I AM HAPPY TO MEET YOU"
ENCHANTÉ DE FAIRE VOTRE CONNAISSANCE
SIGH

Marvin



JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SNIYO

TNERU

NWIENR

TTCDEE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek
Why would they want to stop making the penny? What about things priced at $.99?
It's not like they're even made with copper any more.
Your collection is going to be worth more now.
12/23
TO SOME PEOPLE, THE IDEA OF ELIMINATING THE PENNY IS ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

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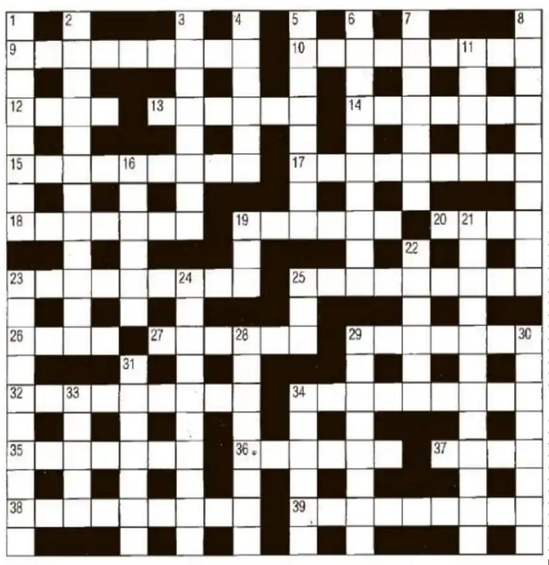
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " ○○○ - ○○○○○ "

(Answers Tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HOUSE TABOO PERMIT BIGGER
Answer: While making cupcakes for her son's baseball team, she said — BATTER UP

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4047



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
9 Just the same, later comes out in the nude, dancing (9)
10 He's not preparing the cannabis there and then (2,3,4)
12 Require and appropriate (4)
13 When going round the abyss, keeps well away from it (6)
14 Give ground on the transport carrying Her Majesty (7)
15 A service for the dead? (4,5)
17 To create peace, jeopardises (9)
18 Having time off, the lasses hang about looking decorative (7)
19 He is, in the main, right (6)
20 A shade low (4)
23 Len had to return and to help (4,1,4)
25 Thinking it right, on witnessing the spasm (6,3)
26 Not so drunk, being accustomed to it (4)
27 It's lucky mother's gone to bed (6)
29 Sense one's intending to (7)
32 Be in possession of a drawing and know what you'll do (4,1,4)
34 Cheated the punter and was more successful at it (3,6)
35 Also coming through is a darn whirl wind (7)
36 Badly out in the spelling of "lively" (6)
37 Idly look through a book under a tree? (4)
38 Comments in the book on chiropody? (9)
39 How the golfer described the two-mile avenue? (4,5)

DOWN
1 Not much evidence that there's a horse around (4,1,3)
2 It's meaningless for those without nous (7,5)
3 Succeeds in cutting a sliver on the quiet (8)
4 We'd mistaken one girl for another (6)
5 Give up because you promise to (8)
6 When specified, Ted and Tim will be in the East, travelling (6,4)
7 Are prancing into the arena and standing on their hind legs (7)
8 With "Before two, ideally," is in really good form (2,4,4)
11 "Set for fish," you say (5)
16 The person let into the secret - an islander (6)
19 Mother got up furious (3)
21 Wouldn't give a decision to but didn't allow to land (4,2,3,3)
22 A very rough sea; fun but dangerous (6)
23 Dismiss lightly, in a funny kind of way (5,2,3)
24 In all price ranges, no matter what (2,3,5)
25 Ready for collection (3)
28 Shorten it do, stupid! (8)
29 Forced to dress as a girl (8)
30 Not bugged (4-4)
31 Man stood up by Agnes, perhaps, in the Italian restaurant (7)
33 Figure Igor had been led astray by the sign (5)
34 Bores the doctor with ailments (6)

ACROSS

9 Sauce (9)
10 Native Australian (9)
12 Large tropical tree (4)
13 Conclude (6)
14 Lacking imagination (7)
15 Lacking vitality (9)
17 Feeling (9)
18 Erased (7)
19 Minute (6)
20 Earnest request (4)
23 Romantic card (9)
25 Political agitator (9)
26 Swelling (4)
27 Excellent (6)
29 Warded off (7)
32 Too quiet to be heard (9)
34 Appropriate (9)
35 Increase (7)
36 Divulge (6)
37 Household implement (4)
38 Go beyond (9)
39 Exuberant (9)

DOWN

1 Engrossed (8)
2 Without equal (12)
3 Man's name (8)
4 Hit (6)
5 Exaggerated masculinity (8)
6 Selection of games (10)
7 Temporary encampment (7)
8 Proportion (10)
11 Arab (5)
16 Have in mind (6)
19 Mimic (3)
21 Cheerful (5-7)
22 Concurred (6)
23 Fan (10)
24 Restraint (10)
25 Pigment (3)
28 Injustice (8)
29 Material decoration (8)
30 Explode (8)
31 Antagonistic (7)
33 Corner (5)
34 Is jealous of (6)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12452

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Dubai 6, Watch 9, Scarper (Scapa) 10, Piste 11, E-mail 12, Marks 13, Ferried 15, Sic 17, O-din 18, Snitch 19, Sh-I-ed 20, Clocks 22, G-all 24, Eon 25, Slanted 26, S-pies 27, Pay up 28, Twis-t 29, Rever-I-e 30, Peter 31, E-DI-ts
DOWN: 2, ('Man') United 3, As-tern 4, I-CE 5, B-road 6, Weekend 7, Arms 8, CLI-nic 12, Meth-s 13, For-c-e 14, Ri-p-on 15, Stoat 16, Chil-d 18, Se-L-ls 19, Skipper 21, Loc-Al-e 22, Gnawed 23, Legs it 25, S-Eve-r 26, Sure 28, Ti-e

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Whist 6, React 9, Cabinet 10, Sport 11, Scoop 12, Filth 13, Sedated 15, Ten 17, Edam 18, Intone 19, Being 20, Sacked 22, Visa 24, Eve 25, Topical 26, Pilot 27, Ended 28, Snail 29, Refrain 30, Beats 31, Taken
DOWN: 2, Hopped 3, Scream 4, Tat 5, Livid 6, Resting 7, Etch 8, Chosen 12, Feted 13, Sense 14, Dance 15, Tonic 16, Nepal 18, Ingot 19, Besides 21, Avenue 22, Vienna 23, Saline 25, Tours 26, Pert 28, Sit

◆ SU-DO-KU-6949 ◆

9				7	8	1	3	5
8		3		5			9	
5	6		4	9	3			
		2		4			5	
6			5		1			2
	4			2		9		
			2	8	4		7	9
	5			6		4		1
4	9	8	7	1				3

easy

7	8	1	5	3	2	9	6	4
5	3	9	1	4	6	7	8	2
4	2	6	8	7	9	1	3	5
3	5	4	9	6	1	8	2	7
9	1	7	2	8	4	6	5	3
2	6	8	3	5	7	4	1	9
6	4	3	7	1	5	2	9	8
8	7	2	6	9	3	5	4	1
1	9	5	4	2	8	3	7	6

SOLUTION TO 6948

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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R1	D2	U1	B3	I1	I1	T1	4th Letter Triple
G2	O1	J8	N1	I1	K5	J8	Triple Word Score
I1	A1	S1	H4	N1	C3	P3	
G2	D2	R1	I1	I1	E1	N1	Double Word Score

RACK 1 | RACK 2 | RACK 3 | RACK 4

PAR SCORE 130-140
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

C3 A1 R1 A1 M3 E1 L1	RACK 1 = 64
G2 U1 L1 L1 E1 T1	RACK 2 = 7
R1 I1 O1 T1 O1 U1 S1	RACK 3 = 57
C3 H4 I1 D2 E1 S1	RACK 4 = 36
PAR SCORE 105-115	JUDD'S TOTAL = 164

HITORI-3403

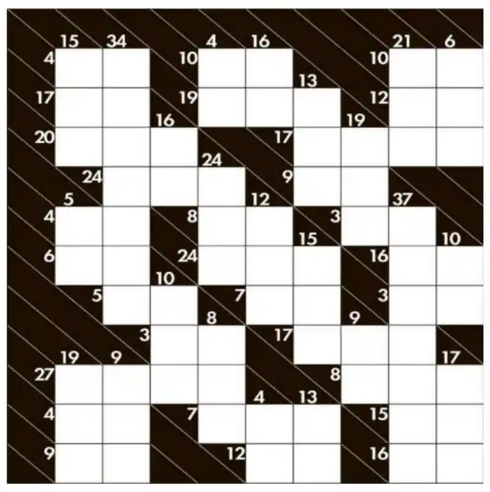
1	2	6	5	7	1	2	4
2	1	1	8	4	5	3	3
1	5	4	2	1	1	7	6
3	8	8	7	4	6	2	5
8	1	7	4	6	1	5	1
7	2	1	1	8	4	6	4
1	3	6	6	5	6	8	7
6	7	5	2	3	1	4	1

SOLUTION TO 3402

5	7	■	3	8	4	6	2
■	3	8	7	■	2	■	5
2	■	4	■	5	7	8	■
3	6	■	5	7	8	■	1
■	8	6	2	■	3	1	4
8	2	■	6	1	5	4	■
6	■	2	8	3	■	5	7
■	1	3	4	■	6	2	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3403



SOLUTION TO 3402

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3966

■						6		■
	■		2			9	■	
	9	■	8			■	4	
			■		■	1	2	
7	1		9	■				6
			■		3			
		■	3	4	7	■		
1	■			5			■	
■				8	2		7	■

SOLUTION TO 3965

6	1	9	7	2	4	5	8	3
2	7	5	9	3	8	6	4	1
3	8	4	1	5	6	2	9	7
9	3	6	2	4	5	1	7	8
8	5	1	6	9	7	4	3	2
7	4	2	8	1	3	9	5	6
5	9	7	3	6	1	8	2	4
4	6	8	5	7	2	3	1	9
1	2	3	4	8	9	7	6	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Iranian leaders pay last respects to Khamenei

Representatives from 30 countries are expected to attend the funeral

TEHRAN, AFP

Top Iranian officials on Friday paid their final respects to the country's slain supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, at the start of a week of funeral ceremonies, with allies and mourners converging on Tehran, where his body is lying in state.

Authorities expect public mourning and grand processions to attract millions before Khamenei's burial next week, four months after he was killed, aged 86, at his compound in the opening US-Israeli salvo of the West Asia war.

AFP images showed mourners carrying his coffin aloft at the vast Grand Mosalla religious complex in the Iranian capital, with the casket draped in the colours of the Islamic republic that he led for more than three decades.

State TV broadcast footage of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian paying his respects at Khamenei's coffin on Friday afternoon, alongside Parliament Speaker and chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country has been mediating between Iran and the United Sstates to end the West Asia war, former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev and the foreign minister of Afghanistan's Taliban government also paid their respects.

Delegations from the Palestinian militant group Hamas and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah joined the mourning, a day before a public ceremony was set to begin.

Representatives from around 30 countries are expected to attend the funeral, with other allies, including China and Iran's neighbours in the Caucasus region, saying they would be sending representatives. The city was preparing to receive huge numbers of visitors for the grand display of patriotism and devotion.

Security has been on high alert, and portraits and quotes of Khamenei have been draped on the walls of the Grand Mosalla ahead of the funeral ceremonies.

Mourners gather around the coffin of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as it lies in a mourning hall adjacent to the Imam Khomeini Hussainiya within the Supreme Leader's compound before his funeral in Tehran, on Friday. AP/PTI

Women carry a banner featuring Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's photo. REUTERS

Members of Indian delegation walk past the coffins of Khamenei and his family after paying their respects. AFP

Powerful Iranian military general emerges from hiding

A powerful general who leads Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard emerged from hiding as Tehran prepared on Friday for the days-long funeral of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, AP/PTI reports from Dubai.

Photos published online by Iranian state media showed Gen Ahmad Vahidi attending a meeting about Khamenei's funeral, then sitting alongside his casket as Iran's theocracy held a smaller service for him on Thursday night near the supreme leader's former home in downtown Tehran. Vahidi has become a major player in formulating Iran's tough stance in negotiating a possible permanent end to the war with the US.

India-Japan ties should not target third party: China

BEIJING, PTI: China said on Friday that bilateral cooperation between countries should not target any third country or undermine the interests of another nation, a day after India and Japan unveiled a raft of landmark initiatives during Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's visit to New Delhi.

"Cooperation between countries should be conducive to enhancing understanding and trust among regional countries and helping safeguard peace and stability in the region," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing here.

He was responding to a question about cooperation between India and Japan on critical minerals to boost resilience in supply chains after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Japanese prime minister.

"Such cooperation should not target any third party or harm the interests of any third party, still less be used as an excuse to patch up exclusive small groupings and stoke division and confrontation," Guo said.

"All parties should champion openness and cooperation and play a constructive role in the process," he added.

Trump to join Nato leaders in backing collective defence

Ukraine backers to pledge new military assistance at next week's summit

BRUSSELS, REUTERS

Nato leaders, including US President Donald Trump, are set to affirm an "ironclad commitment" to collective defence under the alliance's Article 5 pact at a summit in Ankara next week, according to a text approved by Nato ambassadors on Friday and reviewed by Reuters.

Nato members are also set to pledge $80 billion in military assistance to Ukraine for 2026 and "at least equivalent levels" of support in 2027, according to the declaration, which still needs final approval from the leaders at the summit.

"We ... have gathered in Ankara to reaffirm our ironclad commitment to our collective defence under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty and to the transatlantic bond. An attack on one is an attack on all," says the declaration for the summit, which takes place on July 7-8.

Trump has frequently railed against Nato and its members, accusing them of not spending enough on defence.

After clashing with European leaders over the US-Israeli war against Iran in West Asia, Trump cast doubt on the US commitment to Nato's mutual defence pact and even said he was considering quitting the alliance. But the text, approved by the ambassadors of all Nato's 32 members, including the US, suggests the US president is willing to set aside those ideas, at least for now.

Key challenges facing Nato
Upcoming summit: July 7–8, Ankara
Keeping US committed
Ensure continued US commitment to Article 5 (collective defence)
Manage tensions over US foreign and security policy
Deterring Russia
Nato considers Russia a long-term threat
Monitoring Russia's rising defence spending
Europe taking more responsibility
European allies expected to take the lead in Europe's conventional defence
Europe filling gaps left by reduced US military commitments
Sustaining support for Ukraine
Continue military and financial assistance
Address unequal burden-sharing among allies
Higher defence spending
Making all members pledge to spend 5% of GDP on defence
Some countries face political and budget constraints

10,000 arrested in US immigration drive

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested 10,000 people over a five-day period at the end of June, marking a major push by the agency tasked with carrying out the Trump administration's mass deportation agenda.

The arrest numbers, obtained from a person familiar with the information who spoke anonymously to discuss data that has not been publicly released, come after the agency shifted its approach from high-profile arrest sweeps in major US cities to quieter methods to achieve President Donald Trump's deportation goals.

The figures indicate that while the administration is no longer cracking down on individual cities, arrests have continued and are surging.

HEALTH CAMPAIGN

UK rewards 20-minute walks

LONDON, PTI

The UK's state-funded National Health Service on Friday unveiled plans for a nationwide walking challenge that will reward people for completing the equivalent of a marathon over a month.

The "Movement 26.2" challenge, due to launch by January 2027, aims to sign up around 1,00,000 participants. It aims to encourage participants to log walks of at least 20 minutes a day. Over a month, that would roughly add up to 26.2 miles. Participants will be able to log their walks online or using their phones and smartwatches. Those who complete the challenge will be eligible for rewards such as discount vouchers and other incentives.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Drones create a formation above the National Constitution Centre in Philadelphia to celebrate the 250th birth anniversary of the US on Friday. The US was founded on July 4, 1776. AFP

Man with Tibetan flag dies after setting himself on fire in NYC

▶ A man carrying a Tibetan flag outside the United Nations headquarters in New York died after setting himself on fire on Thursday, AP/PTI reports from New York.

Law enforcement responded to a 911 call at about 6.30 pm and found the 52-year-old man with severe burns across his body, according to the New York Police Department. The man was taken to hospital and later pronounced dead, according to police. Law enforcement is investigating the self-immolation. Officials said they were not able to comment on what prompted the man to set himself on fire. The man's name has not been released because his family has not yet been notified, according to police. A UN spokesperson said the incident occurred after all scheduled meetings had concluded for the day.

China says Tibet has been part of its territory since the mid-13th century, and the Communist Party has governed the Himalayan region since 1951. However, many Tibetans say they were independent and that the Chinese government wants to exploit the resource-rich region while crushing its cultural identity.

Mission to save Nasa telescope

▶ A three-armed spacecraft rocketed into orbit Friday to rescue a Nasa telescope that's in danger of crashing back to Earth, AP/PTI reports from Cape Canaveral (US).

Northrop Grumman launched Katalyst Space Technologies' Link spacecraft from the Marshall Islands in the Pacific. The Pegasus rocket blasted off from the belly of a modified aeroplane, putting Link on course to reach and capture Nasa's Swift Observatory in about a month. Launched in 2004, Swift is sinking faster than ever because of recent solar storms. Nasa is paying $30 million for Katalyst to capture the telescope and boost its orbit so it can continue tracking some of the biggest explosions in the universe, like gamma ray bursts and exploding stars.

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Traffic Engineering Cell Division, Zone-1, BECC Building,
Hoodi Main Road, Hoodi, Bengaluru - 560048.

No: BECC/EE/TEC/TEND/04/2026-27 **Date: 03-07-2026**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering Cell Division, Zone-1, BECC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Worka detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Outer Ring Road Near Karthik Nagara Bus Stop. **(General) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 4.00 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
2	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at ITPL Main Road Near CMRT College. **(General) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 4.00 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
3	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Outer Ring Road Near EMC Square. **(General) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 4.00 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
4	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Varthuru to Old Airport Road Opp. Sai Samruddi Apartment / Vibgyor School Cross Junction. **(General) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 4.00 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
5	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Varthuru to Old Airport Road Near Siddapura Junction. **(General) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 4.00 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
6	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Whitefield Main Road Immadihalli Junction. **(General) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 4.00 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
7	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Whitefield Main Road Near Royal Mart Junction. **(General) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 4.00 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
8	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Sarjapura Road Near Kaikondrahalli Junction. **(Scheduled Caste) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.50 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 1.50 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
9	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Sarjapura Road Near Wipro Gate. **(General) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 4.00 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
10	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at ORR Near Ibbaluru Junction. **(General) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 4.00 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
11	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Whitefield Main Road Near Hagadur Junction. **(General) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 4.00 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
12	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Sarjapura Road Near Salarpuria Senorita Apartment (M.K. Retail Shop). **(Scheduled Tribe) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.50 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 1.50 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
13	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Sarjapura Road Near Carmelaram Junction. **(Scheduled Caste) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.50 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 1.50 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
14	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Sarjapura Road Near Doddakannalli Junction. **(General) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 4.00 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**
15	Construction of Skywalk under PPP Model on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with Fixed Concession Period of 15 years under Commercial Advertisement Rights at Old Madras Road Near Govt Hospital K.R. Pura. **(Scheduled Caste) - EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.50 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining Rs. 1.50 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document).**

Calendar of Events: 1) RFP Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 06-07-2026 onwards. 2)** Last Date for Tender Queries: **08-07-2026 upto 15.00 Hours through KPP Portal Only. 3)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **08-07-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Bengaluru East City Corporation, Zone-1, 1st Floor, BECC Building, Old Madras Road, K.R. Pura, Bengaluru - 560036. 4)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: **13-07-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **14-07-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 6)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Bid.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Traffic Engineering Cell Division, Zone-1, BECC.

S. E. RAILWAY – E-TENDER

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/GENL/TP/2026/26, dated 02.07.2026. Open e-Tenders for "E" Procurement system are invited by Principal Chief Materials Manager, S.E.Railway, Headquarters Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India, which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be closed at 14.00 hrs.

Sl.No.	Tender No.	Closing Date	Brief Description	Qty.	EMD (in ₹)
1	**60260006A**	22.07.2026	HVN-66 INSULATING LINER FOR USE WITH PSC SLEEPER etc.	600000 Nos.	6,35,760/-
2	**38263898**	15.07.2026	Slack adjuster Type IRSA - 600 complete.	1850 Nos.	3,28,280/-
3	**38263894**	07.08.2026	Key bolt with nut, spring washer and 4mm dia Split pin	880000 Nos.	5,39,620/-
4	**38263932**	05.08.2026	New Doorway Stiffining Cross Bar for BOXNHL Wagon	20500 Nos.	13,54,650/-
5	**38261545**	10.08.2026	Modified key for Brake shoe etc.	149600 Nos.	1,49,190/-
6	**38263883**	17.08.2026	7/8" (22.22 mm) Dia Zinc Plated/Galvanized Lock Bolt etc.	57750 Nos.	1,16,910/-
7	**38261554**	10.08.2026	Inner Spring for bolster of CASNUB 22HS Bogie.	14430 Nos.	3,17,010/-
8	**77260012**	25.07.2026	Set of items for anti corrosive Epoxy Paint etc.	2275 Set	1,55,710/-
9	**77261745**	28.07.2026	Alkyd modified synthetic Enamel UV resistant.	57950 ltrs.	1,14,060/-
10	**77261751**	30.07.2026	Paint Aluminium for General purpose etc.	42158 ltrs.	1,09,240/-
11	**77263024**	06.08.2026	Gentian Blue (RAL 5010) Paint etc.	96980 ltrs.	1,82,890/-
12	**77263042**	04.08.2026	Paint, Black, Enamel, Synthetic Exterior etc.	93880 ltrs.	1,19,640/-
13	**33261534**	29.07.2026	BOGIE FRAME ASSEMBLY etc.	24 Nos.	1,40,680/-
14	**33263044**	24.08.2026	Secondary Spring Generator Car etc.	250 Nos.	3,07,930/-
15	**33263049**	31.07.2026	Secondary Lateral Damper etc.	1170 Nos.	1,29,920/-
16	**31265013**	24.07.2026	Traction Motor with pinion etc.	05 Nos.	3,58,950/-
17	**85261839A**	10.08.2026	SET OF TAPER ROLLER BEARING.	210 Set	1,81,270/-
18	**81260019**	27.07.2026	R-407 Refrigerant Gas.	8782 Kgs.	1,50,680/-
19	**60260021**	23.07.2026	FISHPLATES FOR 60 KG. UIC RAIL (1 METER LONG) etc.	34000 Nos.	15,85,550/-
20	**81261879**	20.07.2026	Red Dye Penetrant Kit.	23830 Set	3,04,810/-
21	**IF265113B**	17.07.2026	Supply and Installation of One Set CT 16 Slice Scanning System (Computed Tomography) etc.	01 Set	3,90,000/-
22	**46263094B**	11.08.2026	MOTOR PROTECTION CIRCUIT BREAKER RATING 1.6-2.5 AMPS etc.	3172 Nos.	1,14,090/-
23	**47255020A**	18.08.2026	Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of Automatic supply Change Over color light signaling panel etc.	74 Nos.	1,97,480/-
24	**33263124**	31.08.2026	FOOT STEP COMPLETE etc.	3300 Nos.	3,16,040/-
25	**33263081**	27.08.2026	Pad for secondary Suspension FIAT etc.	2100 Nos.	4,20,770/-
26	**43263016**	03.08.2026	Voltage phase control (MMR-Measuring & Monitoring Relay) etc.	2422 Nos.	2,92,640/-
27	**90263113**	22.07.2026	Slip free finish Stainless Steel Sheet etc.	62544 Kgs.	2,98,160/-
28	**90263067A**	03.08.2026	MS Wire (for general Engg. Purpose) etc.	81815 Kgs.	1,25,380/-
29	**5626RGC_RELAY_QNN1**	27.07.2026	Running Contract/Price Agreement for supply of Relay QNN1 etc.	3500 Nos.	4,43,100/-
30	**5626RGC_RELAY_QN1**	03.08.2026	Running Contract/Price Agreement for supply of Relay QN1 etc.	14000 Nos.	15,54,510/-
31	**60260002**	10.08.2026	Manufacture and Supply of Metal Liner for use with ERC MK-III flat toe on concrete sleeper etc.	800000 Nos.	3,46,400/-

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B. :** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any corrigendum published thereafter. **(PR-412)**

Biz Bytes

Centre probes Tata data breach

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Friday said that it is investigating a reported cyber incident at Tata Electronics that allegedly exposed sensitive supply chain information and images of Apple's unreleased iPhone 18 Pro model.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Secretary S Krishnan said authorities are actively looking into the matter after it was reported to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), the country's nodal agency for handling cybersecurity incidents.

"We are investigating it... it has been reported to CERT-In," Krishnan told reporters here.

Chessworld AI is official tech partner of KSCA

BENGALURU, DHNS: Elevate-supported startup Chessworld AI, which is backed by the Karnataka government's startup programme, has been appointed as the official technology partner of the Karnataka State Chess Association (KSCA). Through this pact, Chessworld AI will help modernise the state's chess ecosystem by introducing an integrated digital platform for tournament registrations, player and tournament management, digitisation of over-the-board games, AI-powered game analysis, and personalised learning tools for players.

JSW Steel starts work on Andhra project

NEW DELHI, PTI: JSW Steel on Friday said it has commenced construction of a 2 million tonne steel plant project in Andhra Pradesh at an investment of over Rs 16,350 crore. The project will be set up in two phases through its 100% subsidiary JSW Rayalaseema Steel Ltd, JSW Steel said in a statement. The first phase, with a planned investment of Rs 4,500 crore, would be a 1-MTPA integrated steel plant to manufacture low-carbon-emission steel products. The second phase, with an additional planned investment of up to Rs 11,850 crore, will expand capacity to 2 MTPA.

Centre plans regulatory framework for AI: IT Secy

Govt signals AI law as synthetic content grows

Separate AI law under consideration: MeitY says time is ripe for a dedicated regulatory framework.

Current rules seen as insufficient: Existing IT laws have addressed early AI risks, but may no longer be enough.

Platforms face tighter obligations: Flagged AI-generated content, including deepfakes, must be removed within 3 hours under proposed IT rule amendments.

Stricter disclosures proposed: AI-generated visuals may need continuous, visible labels throughout playback.

Focus on deepfakes: New law likely to address misinformation, synthetic content and online harms.

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has indicated that the time has come to develop a separate regulatory framework for AI.

S Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry, stated on Friday that while existing legal provisions have been adequate to address initial concerns such as deepfakes and AI-generated synthetic content, additional regulation or legislation may now be required.

"It is a conversation which has commenced, and my Minister (IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw) and I have both been on record earlier that we will look at AI regulation when the time is right, and it appears that the time is getting right, and we will start looking at it," Krishnan told reporters here.

"We have used the IT rules, and other provisions of existing law to address various concerns that AI raises, but now, probably the time has come to look at a separate legislation," he said.

Regarding timelines for any new regulation, Krishnan noted that the Ministry can prepare draft legislation at the official level, but he declined to comment on when such legislation might be finalised.

His comments come amid global discussions on regulating generative AI, particularly concerning issues such as deepfakes, misinformation and online harms.

India has been tightening IT rules to firmly crack down on AI deepfakes.

In February this year, the Indian government introduced amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, imposing stricter obligations on online platforms. These include a requirement to remove AI-generated or synthetic content, including deepfakes, flagged by a competent authority or court within three hours. The amendments also formally defined AI-generated and synthetic content.

The amendments defined "audio, visual or audio-visual information" and "synthetically-generated information", covering AI-created or altered content that appears real or authentic. Routine editing, accessibility improvements, and good-faith educational or design work have been excluded from this definition.

The Centre has proposed stricter disclosure norms for AI-generated content through amendments to the Information Technology Rules. Under the proposal, all synthetically generated visual content would be required to carry clear, continuous labels identifying it as AI-generated. These labels must remain visible for the entire duration of the visual display, ensuring viewers are informed at all times. The move is aimed at improving transparency, curbing misinformation and the misuse of AI-generated content.

(With inputs from PTI)

PM to open greenfield refinery project in Rajasthan today

GYANENDRA KESHRI
JODHPUR, DHNS

India is set to get its first greenfield refinery project in 10 years, which will significantly boost the country's petroleum refinery and storage capacity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the project on Saturday. Located at Pachpadra in Balotra district of Rajasthan, HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL) is India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex.

The project has been developed as a JV between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and the Government of Rajasthan, with an investment of Rs 79,459 crore. It will have 9 million metric tonnes per annum of refining capacity and 2.4 million metric tonnes per annum of petrochemical capacity. This is India's first greenfield refinery since Indian Oil Corporation Limited's Paradip Refinery, commissioned in 2016.

"The project is expected to play a pivotal role in strengthening India's energy security, enhancing petrochemical self-sufficiency, and driving industrial growth," as per a statement from the PMO on Friday.

It will serve as an anchor industry for the development of a Petrochemical and Plastic Park in the region, promoting downstream industries and ancillary sectors. Additionally, the refinery is poised to generate significant employment opportunities, contributing to the socio-economic development of the region, it said.

HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited is one of the largest single-location industrial investments in India. HPCL controls the majority 74% stake in the project, while the remaining 26% stake is owned by the state government.

India is currently the world's 4th largest refiner, with a capacity of 258.1 MMTPA in 2024-25. The HRRL project is estimated to boost the country's refining capacity to 267 MMTPA.

HCLTech wins $1.14 bn deal with European company

BENGALURU, DHNS

IT services firm HCLTech started Q2 FY27 with a $1.14 billion mega deal win from a Europe-headquartered Fortune Global 50 firm. The company did not disclose the client's name. HCLTech will set up an AI-driven operating model to transform and manage the client's Global Digital Workplace and Enterprise Networks.

"The initial term of the agreement is from July 2026 to December 2031, extendable for a further period of 5 years. The estimated value of the agreement during the initial term is $1.14 billion. This is entirely a net new business for the company," the company said in a BSE filing.

The deal comes as IT services firms face slower client decision-making due to macro uncertainty.

Last month, the company acquired a 10.5% stake in Sarvam AI for Rs 1,427 crore.

HCLTech said that by combining its enterprise transformation expertise, global client relationships, data and software IP and engineering depth, it would accelerate Sarvam's goal of building an end-to-end sovereign AI ecosystem for India and beyond.

The IT firm will be announcing its Q1FY27 results on July 13. In Q4FY26, the company posted a 4.2% increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 4,488 crore compared to Rs 4,307 crore in the year-ago period. For the full fiscal year, the company's net profit stood at Rs 16,642 crore. Its total contract value in Q4FY26 stood at $1,936 million, and Europe grew by 4.5% in FY26.

Air India inks MoU with SIAEC to eye MRO opportunities

MUMBAI, DHNS: Air India signed an MoU with SIA Engineering Company Limited (SIAEC) on Friday to explore a collaboration in Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) that will contribute to the development of India as a global aviation MRO hub.

The MoU was signed by Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson, and SIAEC CEO Chin Yau Seng, a statement said. The aim is to deepen the partnership between both parties by tapping on SIAEC's MRO and technical expertise to bolster Air India's established network by jointly developing a world-class MRO ecosystem in India. This collaboration could include the potential formation of an MRO JV in India, serving the needs of the Indian and regional markets.

Wilson said India's rapid aviation growth is driving the need for a stronger, more self-reliant MRO ecosystem within the country.

'Japan leads APAC in India GCC footprint with over 100 centres'

Deloitte says centres serve tech, industrial, auto, healthcare sectors

Share of Japanese GCCs in India (Sector-wise, March 2025)

Sector	Share
Technology	20%
Industrial	15%
Automotive	11%
Healthcare	11%
Energy and Utilities	7%
BFSI	6%
Transport	6%
Consumer	5%
Professional Services	4%
Others	4%
Construction	4%
Media and Entertainment	3%
Telecom	2%

Source: Deloitte Insights

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Japanese enterprises are increasingly setting up and expanding Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India to support global operations and develop future-ready capabilities. The Far Eastern island nation has become the largest contributor among Asia Pacific-headquartered companies with GCCs in India, with over 100 Japanese firms now operating such centres in the country, according to Deloitte's report 'India's strategic GCC play for Japanese enterprises'.

These Japanese GCCs cover all major sectors, with technology, industrial, automotive and healthcare, collectively accounting for more than half of Japan's GCC presence in India. Japanese firms have traditionally favoured India's tier-1 cities for establishing their GCCs, as these cities offer mature infrastructure, a robust talent pool and proximity to key business hubs.

According to the JoulesToWatts (J2W) GCC Adoption Survey 2025, Bengaluru and Hyderabad have emerged as the most-preferred locations, with over 60% of Japanese firms shortlisting them for their next phase of growth.

Beyond metros

Firms are now also expanding beyond metros to Tier-2 locations such as Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Coimbatore, Kochi, and Indore. India hosts over 2,100 GCCs and accounts for more than half of all GCCs established worldwide. The number of GCCs in the country is expected to exceed 5,000 by 2030. About 25% of Forbes Global 2000 companies have GCCs in India, and the country has the potential to generate $470-600 billion in net economic impact by FY2030, contributing up to 2.8% to GDP, while creating an estimated 20-25 million jobs.

The report said India's strong presence in manufacturing-adjacent capabilities, automotive engineering, embedded systems, and enterprise technology makes it a natural collaborator for Japan's core industries.

"Another increasingly-important driver is supply-chain de-risking. As Japanese companies adopt a China-plus-one strategy to reduce concentration risk, India is emerging as both a manufacturing alternative and the engine that designs, digitises and de-risks diversification," it said.

"India and Japan are entering a new phase of economic collaboration anchored in innovation, technology and long-term value creation. As Japanese enterprises expand their global capability networks, India is emerging as a strategic hub for Japan that combines scale, engineering talent and digital expertise," said Rohan Lobo, Partner and GCC Industry Leader, Deloitte India.

The report highlighted that the next phase of growth will be driven by future-ready talent strategies, deeper R&D and innovation mandates, among others.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(13E): 2026-27:JE-1 Dated: 02.07.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal)

The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Mangaluru, invites tenders from eligible tenderers on the K.P.P. Portal **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** in accordance with the KTPP Act. For Indent Nos. 37211, 37201, 37270, 36329, the last date for the receipt of tenders is **18.07.2026 up to 17:00 hours.** These tenders are invited under the Head of Account : **5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDCL Capital Expenditure.**

In the above work lowest cost of estimate is Rs.150.00 Lakhs & highest cost of estimate is Rs. 170.00 Lakhs. Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard Tender Document – KW-4. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, for more details can contact O/o, Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru during official working hours. Contact No: 0824-2423169.

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/452/26-27 dt.03.07.2026 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA BUILDING & OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WELFARE BOARD.
Kalyana Suraksha Bhavana, ITI Compound, Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560029, Phone: 080-29753350, E-mail: karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com
No: KBOCWWB/E-Auction/FD2&FD(a)/CR-06/2026-27 Date: 03.07.2026

E-Tender Notification

Sub: Inviting E-Auction for interest rate bids on Investment of Surplus Funds in Fixed Deposit/Non-callable & Callable for one year through E-Portal, Government of Karnataka.

Board is inviting competitive rate of interest through e-bidding on the KPPP portal of Govt. of Karnataka from the Regional/Zonal/ Head Offices of the Nationalized banks for Non-callable Fixed / Term Deposits of 'Surplus funds of approx. **Rs. 700.00 crore**(Non-callable) & **Rs.101.00 Crore**(Callable) (Rupees Seven Hundred crore & one Hundred & one Crore only) one year. E-Auction documents should be submitted electronically through e-Procurement portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** and last date for applying is on **06.07.2026 before 16:00 Hrs**. For further information please contact Deputy Controller of the Board Phone: 080-29753350/54/56, Mob: 9739441766 during office hours.

Sd/-Joint Secretary KB&OCWWB
DIPR/CP/SHIRDI SAI/1476/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560 017
इसरो isro CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax:080 25084155)
BRIEF CORRIGENDUM-I NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Description	Details
Name of work	Miscellaneous Airconditioning Works at Main Campus and ISITE Campus, URSC, Bengaluru
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/0053/ETN-01/2026-27 Dt. 11.06.2026
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 23.99 Lakhs
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Extended upto 23:59 Hrs. on 06.07.2026
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 47980/- (Validity for 180 days)

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Established under the State Financial Corporation's Act 1951)
HEAD OFFICE: RECOVERY, 'KSFC Bhavana', No.1/1, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru-560001, Ph: 9242497249, 9945075536, E-mail: rec.ksfc@karnataka.gov.in
SALE OF PRIME PROPERTIES (2. NOs) THOUGH E- AUCTION AT KOHAMANGALA & MALLESHWARAM, BENGALURU under SARFAESI ACT

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the following immovable properties described herein have been taken possession under the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) in exercise of the powers conferred U/s.13(4) read with Rule No.9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and will be sold through e-auction on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"**. Persons interested for purchase of the following assets may participate in the bid through e-Auction.

Name of the unit: M/s. Rekha Cement & Chemicals Pvt Ltd
Description of the property: Collateral Security-1: Two residential sites bearing 1) No.77 (old No. 180/4, Khatha. No.260) & 2) 77/1 (Old No.181, Khatha No 262), I B Main Road, Jakkasandra, Begur Hobli. Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring E-W 45 ft. X N-S 60 ft. 2 sites X 2700=5400 Sq.ft, together with building thereon mortgaged by Sri Joseph Dorai Raj, Site No.77 (old No 180/4, Khatha. No 260) is bounded by East by: Road (earlier property of Smt, Yellamma), West by: Road, North by: Site No 77/1 (earlier property. No. 3), South by: Site No.76 (earlier property No.6) and Site No.77/1 (Old No. 181, Khatha No. 262) bounded by East by: Road (earlier property of Smt. Yellamma), West by: Road, North by: remaining portion of the same site, South by: property No.4.
Reserve Price: Rs.1130.39 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 113.04 Lakhs.
Collateral Security-2: All that piece and parcel of land with buildings, structures, fittings and fixtures thereon bearing property No 90/1, Ground Floor, situated at 5th Division, Malleshwaram, 11th Cross, Pipe Line, Benagaluru, measuring 31.75'+35.75' / 2 X 43.50'+25.25'/2 and bounded by East by: House belonging to Sri Krishnamatthy, West by: Coconut Avenue Road, North by: Private property, South by: 11th Cross. Mortgaged by Sri S. Praksh.
Reserve Price: Rs.491.45 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 49.15 Lakhs.
Dues of the Company: KSFC-Rs.83.67 crores + KSIIDC-Rs.282.46 crores
Date of Inspection of both the above properties: 20/07/2026 from 11.30 AM to1.30 PM
e-Auction for all the above 2 properties : will commence on **05/08/2026 at 11.00 AM** and closes on **06/08/2026 at 4.00 PM**
Last Date for payment of EMD for both the above properties: 04/08/2026 at **4.00 PM**

Terms and Conditions: 1) The sale is through e-auction and as detailed in website **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Interested persons are advised to visit the aforesaid website.
2) This is also a statutory notice for sale of secured assets to the borrowers /owners. Further, they are also requested to mobilize prospective buyers interested in buying the above properties by participating in the e-auction to safeguard their interest.
3) For more details Contact KPPP portal helpdesk No. **91-9240214000 and 91-9240214001** at 4th Floor, Sri Arvind Bhavan, Mythic Society Compound, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560 001.
4) All statutory dues and other dues/taxes payable to local authorities/State BESCOM/development charges/GST if any are payable by the purchaser.

Date: 04.07.2026
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/-
General Manager (Recovery)
Authorised Officer

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೀರಶೈವ-ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
5ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಗೋಪುರ, ಡಾ. ಬಿ.ಆರ್ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವೀಧಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 001. ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ : mdveerashaivalingayathagok2021@gmail.com
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080-22865522
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕ.ವೀ.ಲಿಂ.ಅ.ನಿ./ಸಿ-3/ಸಿಆರ್-34/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.07.2026

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮರು-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೀರಶೈವ-ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮದಿಂದ ಬೀದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಬೀದರ್ ಉತ್ತರ, ಬಸವಕಲ್ಯಾಣ, ಭಾಲ್ಕಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಹುಮನಾಬಾದ್ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ (01) ರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ 46 ಘಟಕಗಳ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಏತ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ **ಮರು-ಟೆಂಡರ್** ಮೂಲಕ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.07.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.29 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೀರಶೈವ-ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ (ನಿ), 5ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಗೋಪುರ, ಡಾ॥ ಬಿ.ಆರ್ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವೀಧಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560001, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080-22865522 ಅನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಕ.ವೀ.ಲಿಂ.ಅ.ನಿ.ನಿ
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/1445/2026-27

Karnataka State Textile Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Trade Center, Old No. 29/4, New No. 116/2, 1st floor, Race Course Road, Bangalore-560001.
Ph: 080-22266540/541, e-mail:kstidcl.bgl@gmail.com
No.: KSTIDCL/ADMIN/HO.TE.Park/2026-27 Date: 04.07.2026

Re-Extension of e-Tender Notification
(Through KPP Portal only) (Call-3)

The Karnataka State Textile Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., Belagavi /Bengaluru, has previously invited tenders through the e-Procurement portal from eligible bidders for the financial year 2026-27, as outlined in the project proposal, for the selection of "Transaction Advisory Services" to develop the Hosadurga Textile Park on 30 acres of land located at Survey No. 28, Aralehalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosadurga Taluk, Chitradurga District. This extended e-tender notification is hereby re-extended. Last Date and Time for Tender Submission: **22.07.2026 up to 5:30 PM** Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **24.07.2026 at 11:00 AM** For further details, please contact the above-mentioned office or visit **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in**

For More Information: Interested parties may contact the KSTIDCL Corporation landline number: 080-22266540.

Sd/-
Managing Director, KSTIDCL
DIPR/CP/JA/1463/2026-27

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Notification No.KHB/CE/AEF/S&S/Hoovinahalli-Hassan/KHB/ 2026-27/ SE0378/Call-2 Date: 02.07.2026

Karnataka Housing Board has invited tender through KPP Portal for appointment of Architectural Engineering Firm (AEF) for the work of Proposed Development of sites and services scheme in an extent of 494A-14.12G at Hoovinahalli Kaval & Hoovinahalli Village in Kasaba Hobli, Hassan Taluk, Hassan District.

Last date for Submission of bid is on 16.07.2026 upto 4.00 PM.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511 , Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/1469/AKAR/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

Shivamogga – Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority, Shivamogga
Vinobanagar, 100 feet road, Shivamogga-577204.
Ph: 08182-249867, e-mail: sudashivamogga@gmail.com
No.: SUDA/C.A./Allotment-1/2026-27 Date: 01.07.2026

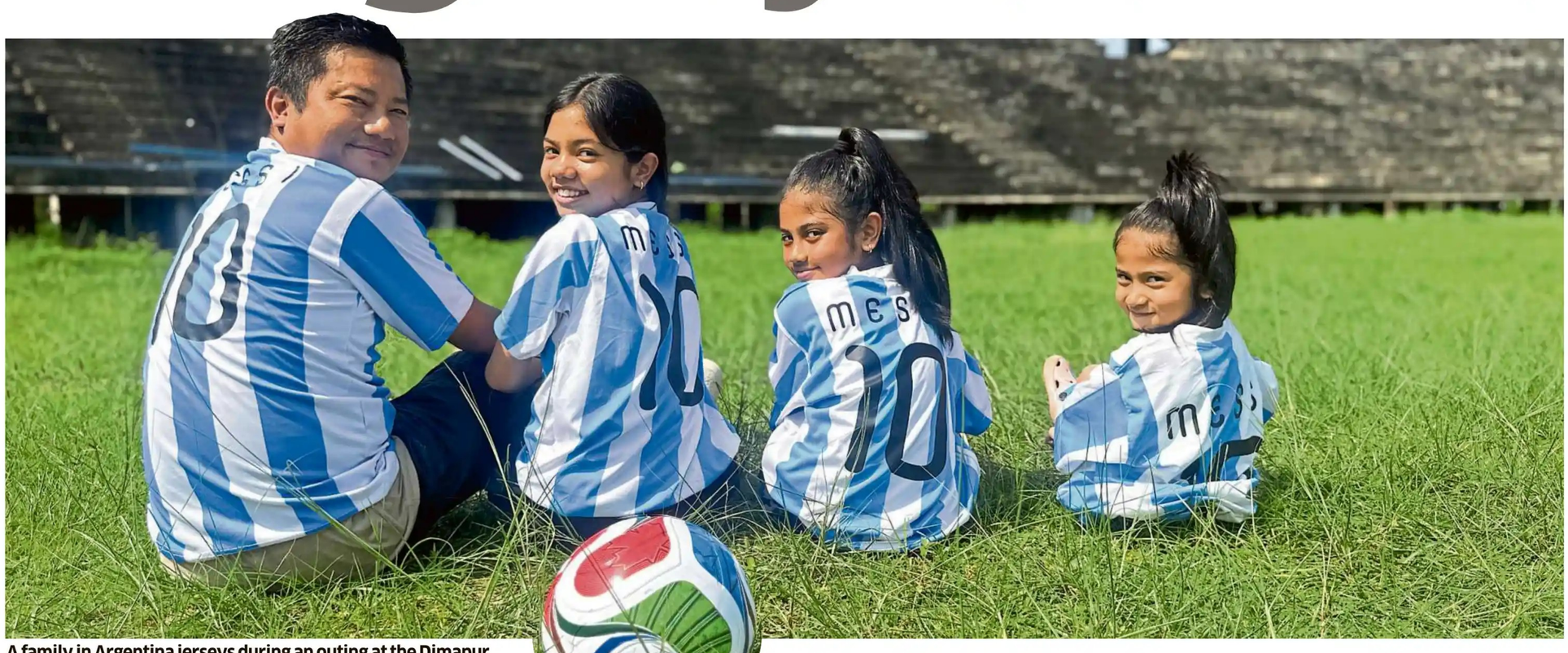
Public Notice for Allotment of Civic Amenity Sites

Application is invited from Co-operative Society or Societies, Registered under Karnataka Societies Registration Act 1960, Registered Educational, Religious, Charitable Trusts regarding allotment of Civic Amenity Sites reserved for Public Facilities in Authority's/private layouts in the limits of Shivamogga –Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority on lease basis for 30 years as per Karnataka Urban Development Authorities Civic Amenity Sites Allotment Rule 1991. Application Form – 1 for Registration and Application Form–2 for sanction of site can be obtained from the office of Shivamogga–Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority by payment of Rs. 500 as fee from 06.07.2026 to 04.08.2026 up to 3.00PM. Applications with details filled in Form-1 and 2 can be submitted at the office of the Shivamogga–Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority in person or through registered post within 5.00 PM on 11.08.2026. Details/Note/Special Note of the Civic Amenity Sites available for allotment can be obtained from website of the Authority www.shivamogga.uda.gov.in or by contacting the office of the Authority.

Sd/- (B.R. Manjunath)
Commissioner,
Sd/- (H.S. Sundaresh, B.E.)
Chairman,
Shivamogga – Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority, Shivamogga.
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/19/07/460

Nagaland's passion for football is legendary. Dr Talimeren Ao, a physician from the state, captained independent India's first football team and carried the tricolour at the 1948 Olympics. Yet not one player from the state has since worn India's senior colours. **Kallol Dey** finds out why

Where flags fly high, but glory eludes



A family in Argentina jerseys during an outing at the Dimapur Stadium, which is pending completion since the mid-2000s.

The drizzle had stopped splattering against my car's windshield as I entered Kohima. My gaze wandered listlessly, hoping to catch the therapeutic sight of mist rolling off the hills. But this morning was different. The streets of Kohima had gone delirious with colour. Argentina's blue-and-white stripes jostled with the Canarinha's gold and green, and Germany's black, red and gold, all fluttering from balcony railings and rooftops. Portugal's red, painted across a shop shutter, bled into the blues and greys of the mist. A scooty taxi pulled up alongside my car, a flag mounted on each handlebar. The two countries they represented share neither a border nor a language, but here they were, united on a winding lane in the hilly capital of Nagaland.

It was the morning before the start of the FIFA World Cup 2026. Ten minutes away, in New Market Colony, the spectacle was even grander. A stretch of road through the colony was decked with 130 national flags representing all 48 World Cup teams, along with extra flags of the locality's favourite sides. The colony is home to New Market XI, one of Nagaland's oldest and most decorated community football clubs.

Four hours from Kohima, in Ungma village in Mokokchung, local newspapers carried stories and photographs of a 15-foot replica of the World Cup trophy. It was built by village youths entirely by hand, using 70 bamboo poles and bamboo ropes.

Cut to the present. We are in the thick of the football World Cup, and Nagaland, a state that much of India still associates with insurgency footnotes and travel-show curiosity, has transformed itself into an improvised carnival. Hundreds of community screenings are happening across the state, with young and old alike turning up in the jerseys of their favourite sides.

Football, introduced to the Naga Hills by British colonialists, has long since stopped being an import. Work in Naga society has always been done collectively. The morung, the communal house where children were educated and socialised together, instilled a sense of collective identity early on. A child raised in that tradition did not need to be taught that the team mattered more than the individual. Therefore, football did not disrupt Naga culture. It became an expression of its ethos of work and celebration.

Today, Nagaland celebrates the Beautiful Game with passionate frenzy, whether it is the high-stakes World Cup or the English Premier League (EPL) or a scrappy inter-district tournament. That makes the irony all the more uncomfortable: not a single player from the mountain state has worn India's senior colours since 1950.

Hero from the hills

Why, then, is Nagaland's football in the shape it is? It is a question nobody in the state's football establishment seems eager to answer. If the passion for football is this real, this deep, where is the ecosystem that should have grown out of it? The carnival comes and goes every four years. What remains is a state with perpetually unfinished infrastructure, a few seasonal tournaments, and a football association that has never managed to draw up or sustain a consistent annual calendar.

A 15-foot bamboo replica of the FIFA World Cup trophy at Ungma village in Mokokchung district.

The answer begins with a name most of these flag-waving fans recognise, but few can tell you much about: Dr Talimeren Ao, or Dr T Ao. A physician, he captained independent India's first football team and carried the tricolour at the 1948 London Olympics. He reportedly turned down an offer from Arsenal, and came home to the Naga Hills to serve his people as a doctor, honouring his father's dying wish. He was, in every sense, the institution that Nagaland football needed to build itself around, but it simply abandoned his legacy.

The story of Dr Talimeren Ao begins at Impur, on a mission school ground where a boy from Changki chased balls made of rags and pomelos. Then it moves to Cotton College in Guwahati, where he dominated football, athletics, and volleyball, honing his game with the Maharana Club. Next comes Kolkata, and its Carmichael Medical College (now R G Kar Medical College) and Mohun Bagan. Medicine in the lecture hall, football at the highest level outside it. White coats on one side, the green-and-maroon jersey on the other. He moved between two worlds with ease. And then London, where it all converged: the boy from Changki village led independent India's first Olympic contingent as flag bearer, and then led its football team onto the pitch. Told right, this story could have lit a fire in every young sportsperson in the country who ever dared to dream.

Years of unfulfilled promises to honour Dr Talimeren Ao's legacy have left his family resigned, and they rarely speak about it anymore. So when I met his youngest son, Indianoba, during the football legend's birth centenary, he simply said, "Naga society doesn't revere sports personalities as much. We seem to favour politicians." But his father's greatness lives on in his name. It literally means 'One who led India'.

Not even a monument

"Football in Nagaland should have been built around the legacy of Dr T Ao," says Bendangnukshi Jamir. He is not a man given to casual statements. At 81, he is one of Nagaland's most decorated veteran badminton champions. He is a regular member of the Indian team at the World Senior Championships and the Senior National Veteran Championships. But before the international podiums, there was football in his life — a runners-up medal at the 1968 Subroto Cup in New Delhi, and captaincy of the first-ever football team representing North-Eastern Hill University at Raipur in 1974. He knew Dr Talimeren Ao, played badminton alongside him, and watched football tournaments come and go in the state.

What he remembers most pointedly is what was missing. "There was never a tournament named after Dr T Ao while he was alive," he says. Then, without prompting, he turns the lens inward. While both the union and state governments should have honoured him with at least a trophy, they alone can't be blamed, he says. "Sports associations could have also taken the initiative. Even our own tribe failed in this regard." Both Bendangnukshi and Dr Talimeren Ao belong to the Ao Naga tribe, and the self-reproach in that line is as honest as anything I have heard about the state of Nagaland football. What makes it sting harder is that Changki, Dr Talimeren Ao's village, has no institution named after him, no monument, no marker of what its most famous son achieved. It still doesn't have a football ground.

Bendangnukshi is clear about what needs to change: talent without structure is just potential burning itself out. "We only have events. We have neither proper football academies nor sponsors to support talented sportspersons."

System over tournaments

Colo Mero, an influential grassroots sports advocate in Nagaland, makes the same argument from a different angle. "Football in Nagaland has been about tournaments for a long time, and it continues to be so." From mission school grounds to futsal turfs, tournaments are organised at village level, church level, student union level and then some. But Colo draws a firm line between celebration and development. "We must stop treating football as a series of exciting tournaments and start treating it as a year-round developmental process."

Kivilu K Kiba, a Khelo India coach from the state, agrees. Schools, he argues, are the natural home of grassroots football, but only if staffed with certified Physical Education teachers who know the game. He adds that while private academies are sprouting everywhere, without a uniform coaching policy and coordination between institutions, the state risks producing players who are technically mismatched and institutionally unconnected.

The Indian football team for the 1948 London Olympics. Captain Dr Talimeren Ao is seated third from left in the front row.

Subroto paradox

Nagaland has lifted the Boys' U-17 Subroto Cup twice — as joint champions in 1980 and outright champions in 2022, ending a 42-year wait. Schools from the state have been runners-up in six editions. The state has also won the Subroto Cup International tournament twice. So where did these players go? Roko Angami was the first Naga to play in the National Football League in 1996-97. A few others followed. Goalkeeper James Kithan is the only Naga professional in the I-League, playing for Rajasthan United FC — and he is nearing retirement. Many others are fading in a system where the pipeline empties before it reaches anywhere that matters. While Mizoram, Meghalaya and Manipur built ecosystems to develop football from the ground up, Nagaland celebrated the trophies but left the ecosystem to fend for itself.

Ating Konyak knows this cycle from the inside. A blazing midfielder in his playing days, he coached Mon district to victory at the Dr T Ao Inter-District Football Championship in 2025. His diagnosis is blunt: "We are extravagant in conducting tournaments, spending more than necessary." A league, he argues, is the only format that gives players sustained growth and exposure that agents and scouts actually respond to. The Nagaland Super League (NSL) kicked off last year, and he has kind words for its crowds, energy, and proof of concept. However, he says the investment required for the inaugural edition raises questions about the league's long-term sustainability. According to him, only sustainability builds careers.

He adds, "In other states, players persist even if they are paid paltry sums. Our players are accustomed to bigger money and return when they don't receive similar remuneration." Kivi Zhimomi doesn't dress it up either. He is the first Naga to score in the I-League and now runs an academy in Dimapur. "Our boys lack dedication. They are too comfortable being pampered as stars in their home ground rather than braving it outside the state."

He recalls chasing trial camps with no support or sponsorship. The contrast with today's generation is stark. "Now even if clubs come to Nagaland for trials, many players don't turn up," he says.

Winds of change

Change is coming — or so says Kethosituo Sekhose, director of youth resources and sports, Nagaland. He says the state needs professional academies, more A-licence coaches, and a football association with a more professional approach. He is bullish on women's football too.

India's women's national team is ranked higher than the men's, and one player from this year's Nagaland Women's Futsal League has already been called up for the India Under-20 women's team trials.

The Nagaland Baby League, now in its third year and open to boys and girls aged five to 12, is designed to identify talent before it falls through the cracks. On June 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi singled out the Baby League and the Women's Futsal League in his 'Mann Ki Baat' address, calling them inspiring models for the rest of the country.

And the NSL, with seven franchise clubs, drew a sold-out crowd for its final match and more than 53,000 online viewers. The best Under-20 players even earned fully funded scholarships to the Inspire Institute of Sport in Ballari, Karnataka. Whether these initiatives add up to a system — or simply a better class of tournament — Bendangnukshi and Colo would probably answer with the same scepticism.

Infrastructure has begun to catch up, too. Six astroturfs and a football stadium have been opened recently. They will count as real progress only if the momentum is sustained. But infrastructure alone does not produce footballers. Institutions sustain the sport across generations. And the Dr T Ao Regional Football Academy, whose foundation stone was laid in 2018, is still not operational. Until Nagaland pairs its new facilities with a functioning academy and year-round player development, it risks building impressive infrastructure around an empty centre.

Sporting myth

Nagaland has produced only two Olympians — Dr Talimeren Ao in football and Chekrovolou Swuro in archery — and one Paralympian, Hokato Hotozhe Sema, in the F57 shot put. That is a thin return for a state that loves sport so deeply.

Every footballing nation has a founding myth — a story told so often it stops being history and becomes something closer to religion. Brazil has Pelé, discovered barefoot on the streets of Bauru. Argentina has Maradona, the boy from the Villa Fiorito slums who became a 'god'. Nagaland had its founding myth in Dr Talimeren Ao. It just chose not to tell it. It is the story parents should tell their children at bedtime, the name a coach invokes when a young player is ready to quit, the face on a classroom wall reminding them: this is what one of us did. Instead, for the better part of five decades, Dr T Ao was confined to the margins — a trophy here, a renamed ground there. And that, more than the unfinished stadiums, missing academies, or players who came home too soon, is the real cost of what was lost.

Meanwhile, Nagaland's football fans will keep rooting for their Messis, Ronaldos and Dembélés — and for Curaçao, a tiny Caribbean island of 1,50,000 that qualified for this World Cup. They will keep waving flags through Kohima's winding lanes and holding victory rallies for EPL champions, waiting for the day another son or daughter of these hills puts on the India jersey.

Like this story? Email: dhonsat@deccanherald.co.in

MUSICANA

A Bengaluru ensemble finding new textures in Kabir's poetry

The Sadho Project uses folk, ambient, and electronic sounds to bring the poet's lines to life, writes Poorvi Sanath

A year ago, singer and composer Viva Rao tried setting the Kabir bhajan 'Man Lago Mero Yaar Fakiri Mein' against ambient electronic sounds.

The experiment worked well enough that he assembled a team, and by July 2025, The Sadho Project had their first concert.

Since then, this Bengaluru-based quintet has been performing 'Songs of the Seeker', a 90-minute concert experience built around the poetry of the 15th-century mystic saint Kabir Das, to sold-out audiences across the city.

The ensemble takes its name from a word Kabir uses to address both himself and his audience — sadho, meaning seeker. "In our concerts, we explore what it means to be a sadho with the audience," Viva shares. Kabir drew them in because his poetry, pragmatic yet philosophical, simple yet profound, remains relevant to the conversations of today.

The sound the ensemble creates is a marriage of their classical music backgrounds and contemporary influences. Singer-songwriter and music educator Roopini Ravindran says that the electronic sounds add meaning to Kabir's metaphors. In their reimagination of 'Jheeni Jheeni Beeni Chadariya', Viva included sounds of weaving to the percussion, to immerse listeners in a sonic journey.

Vocalist Kusumitha Vasanth adds that audiences of all ages enjoy their interpretation because it is "not too removed from Kabir".

The Sadho Project had their first performance in July 2025.

Their experimentation draws from an unlikely mix of instruments. Percussionist Aniruddh Sharma alternates between the tabla, dholak, khol, and kanjira. He plays the tabla ambidextrously, and ties a Christmas tree star to his foot for a chime effect. To create an atmosphere for their songs, the artistes use the MIDI keyboard to capture sounds from everyday life.

The asalato, a West African percussion instrument, frog guiro, a Thai hand-carved percussion instrument, and lyre harp are among the other instruments that feature in their performances.

Although they have staged 'Songs of the Seeker' multiple times, no two concerts are alike. Aditi Bharatee, music educator and pianist, shares that their performances are tailored to the audience.

"Since we do something new every time, it keeps us on our toes," she says with a laugh. Viva believes that it is important to give listeners something new to think about, because that is what Kabir continues to do with his audience.

So far, The Sadho Project has released a single 'Naiharwa'. "In this celebrated poem, Kabir speaks through the voice of a bride longing to leave her parents' home and reunite with her beloved. Kabir likens the soul's separation from the divine to that of a bride separated from her beloved. In the poem's final verse, he reminds us that the journey to the beloved is not outward, but inward, where the divine has always resided," Viva explains.

In future, they wish to go deeper into Kabir's verses. There is so much to be explored that Viva thinks they will never scratch the surface.

The lion's share

Ashrafi Antia tells a jungle tale where brains triumph over brawn

Shera, the lion, yawned while swishing his tail to chase away the pesky flies buzzing around him and the remains of his meal. It had been a long time since he'd eaten to his heart's content.

A sad look crossed his scarred, maned face as he recalled the fateful day he had to leave his pride after suffering a humiliating defeat at the hands of Daku, a younger, stronger lion. Shera had reluctantly relinquished his position as leader of the pride.

His eyesight was failing and it was difficult for him to hunt without help. His legs were no longer as powerful as they used to be. He'd been lucky that an injured black buck had ventured near while he lay waiting, camouflaged in the tall, dry grass. Shera had pounced on the unsuspecting buck and that's how he ended up with a full belly after many days. Deciding to take a nap, Shera was soon snoring away.

Langda Lomdi, a lame, old fox, hobbled down the jungle path. He stopped in his tracks on hearing this strange rumbling sound. Sniffing the air, he smelt food. He, too, hadn't eaten for days. Now that he was lame, his prey outran him.

Stealthily, he crept towards the sound, which grew louder as he neared the spot where Shera was napping. Langda spotted the snoring lion with his paws on his prey. He stepped closer cautiously, quiet as a mouse, lest he awaken the sleeping giant.

Langda's mouth watered. He knew it would be dangerous to steal from the lion, but he was willing to take the risk. He crept closer, grabbed a small bite and hobbled away into the safety of the undergrowth to chew on his morsel.

The lion slept on blissfully, unaware of the thief's presence.

Emboldened, the crafty old fox decided to go back for a second helping. "Nothing ventured, nothing gained," he thought to himself, biting off a bigger chunk of meat this time around. Langda brazenly returned for a third helping while Shera slept soundly.

Awakening after a while, Shera resumed his meal. "Strange," he thought to himself, "There's a lot less left over than I had imagined."

Langda Lomdi remained hidden. The gears in his wily mind whirred. "This lion could be my meal ticket. Since I'm unable to hunt, let him do all the work and I'll just sponge off his meal."

The sly fox began following Shera, staying

hidden so that the lion didn't know he had a shadow on his tail. Whenever Shera was lucky enough to find something to eat, Langda would wait until he was asleep before making his move to grab the leftovers. Soon he got bolder and stopped taking his measly mouthfuls to his hideaway to eat. Emboldened by the fact that the lion didn't suspect a thing, he stood bravely beside the sleeping lion, boldly feasting on his catch of the day. Until, one day, his greed got the better of him.

Langda Lomdi was chewing on some delicious venison when he was startled by a loud crack. He had bitten into a bone. Awakened by the sharp sound, Shera opened his eyes to see Langda feasting on his hard-earned meal. Langda Lomdi saw the lion glaring at him and turned to flee but found he couldn't move. Shera had pinned Langda's tail to the ground by placing his heavy paw on it. Langda yelped in terror while Shera roared in anger.

"So you're the slimy thief who's been stealing from me! Now that I've caught you, this will be your last meal, as I shall make you my next meal right now!"

Thinking fast on his feet, Langda said:

"Wait, my Lord. Let's make a deal.
I'm sorry I was stealing your meal.
We are both the same...
You are old and I am lame.
I can help you catch more prey
By sending animals your way.
To me it would seem
Hunting would be easier as a team.
If you kill me now, you'll eat for today
But what about the next day?
If we work as a pair
You can have the bigger share.

Scraps are enough for me," pleaded Langda Lomdi.

The crafty fox's scheme did make sense. Besides, Shera wasn't that hungry, having eaten earlier. He decided to give Langda's proposition a try. If it didn't work out, he could always eat the fox later.

So, the next day, Langda Lomdi chased deer towards Shera, lying hidden in wait. Sure enough, the ploy worked and they had dinner for two. Sometimes, Langda would deliberately step on a twig that would alert the deer to his presence. Then he'd step out and chase them, herding them towards Shera, concealed in the grass, and, when they were close enough, the lion would pounce on them.

Both the old animals were eating regularly now. They were pleased with their hunting arrangement, though, of course, as agreed, Shera got the larger share. To this day, when someone gets the bigger portion, we say they got the lion's share.

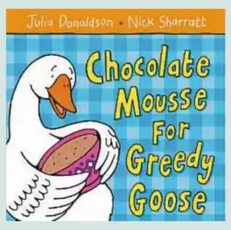
5 BOOKS ON CHOCOLATE

World Chocolate Day is on July 7

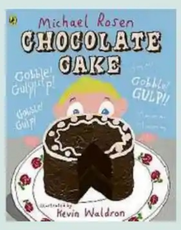
The Chocolate Touch

A twist to the Greek myth of King Midas, Patrick Skene Catling's 'The Chocolate Touch' imagines a world where young John Midas's biggest wish comes true — everything he touches turns into chocolate. At first, he revels in endless sweet treats, but soon realises that even water, fruit and his birthday dinner have become chocolate, leaving him miserable. The 2006 edition, spanning 128 pages, features artwork by Margot Apple. It is ideal for children aged 8 to 12 years.

Chocolate Mousse for Greedy Goose



Julia Donaldson's 'Chocolate Mousse for Greedy Goose' is a rhyming tale about a goose who simply cannot resist helping herself to more and more chocolate mousse. As the feasting continues, Greedy Goose learns that taking more than her fair share has consequences for everyone around her. Illustrated by Nick Sharratt, the 24-page picture book was first published in 2006. This read-aloud features themes of sharing and friendship, and is apt for children aged 3 to 6 years.

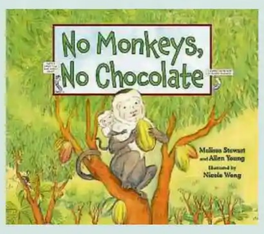


Chocolate Cake

Michael Rosen's 'Chocolate Cake' tells the hilarious story of a young boy who wakes up in the middle of the night, unable to resist the temptation of a delicious chocolate cake waiting in the kitchen. His secret feast and attempts to cover up the evidence make for a laugh-out-loud read. Featuring illustrations by Kevin Waldron, this 32-page title that was first published in 2018, is a good choice for children aged 3 to 6 years.

The Great Chocoplot

What if every piece of chocolate in the world suddenly disappeared overnight? That's the story behind Chris Callaghan's 'The Great Chocoplot', which was first published in 2017. When chocolate mysteriously vanishes from shops, homes and factories everywhere, a group of children find themselves at the centre of a mystery to uncover the culprit and save the world's favourite treat. The 256-page novel is a blend of mystery, adventure, and humour, works best for children aged 7 to 11 years.



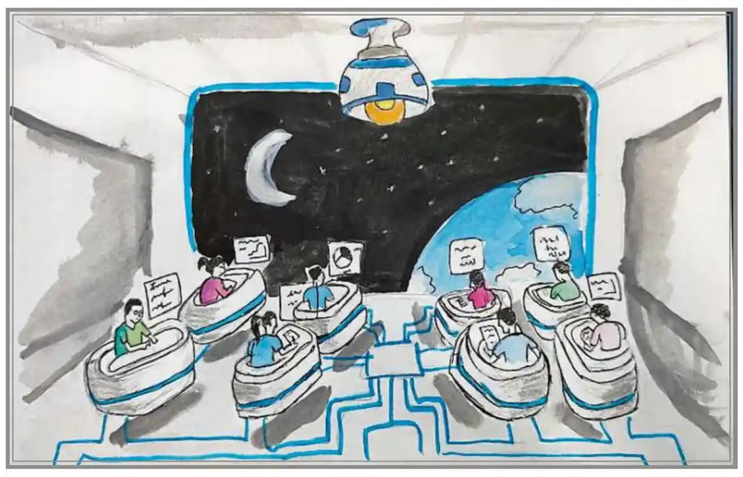
No Monkeys, No Chocolate

In this picture book, Melissa Stewart and Allen Young trace the fascinating journey of cacao from tree to chocolate bar, showing how monkeys, insects, birds and other rainforest creatures all play a vital role in helping cacao thrive. Nicole Wong's illustrations bring the tropical ecosystem to life. Published in 2018, this 32-page book is ideal for children aged 5 to 8 years.

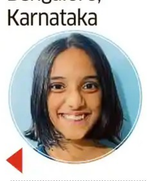
To the classroom of 2050...

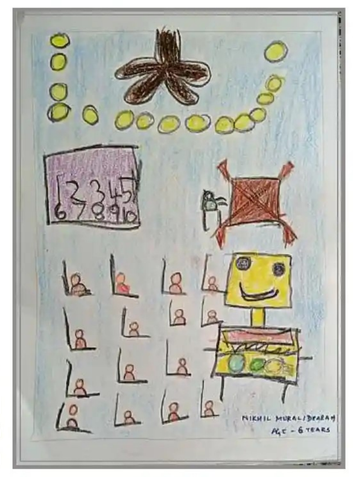
Open Sesame readers share their art

On June 20, *Open Sesame* asked its young readers to send in their artworks. Soon, we were flooded with entries from across the country. Many paintings were good, but we can only publish a few because of space constraints. Don't let that discourage you. Get creative and keep writing and painting, and stand a chance to be featured in an upcoming edition! Send your entries to: *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*

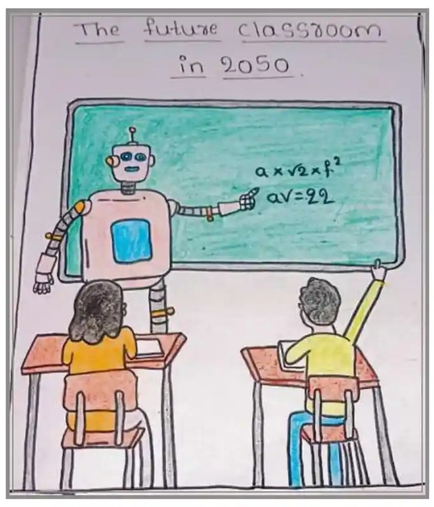


Sannidhi K S, 12
Bengaluru, Karnataka





Nikhil Muralidharan, 6
Bengaluru, Karnataka



Tanushri Araginashetti, 13
Badami, Karnataka

Divya P, 9
Bengaluru, Karnataka

This Week:

Just July

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 On July 6, 1885, the first rabies vaccine was successfully administered to a human by Louis Pasteur. Who was the young recipient who went on to serve at the Pasteur Institute?

Q2 On July 14, 1789, French insurgents stormed a fortress, seized control of it and released all seven inmates who were jailed there. What was that political prison called?

Q3 During the early hours of July 21, 1969, as Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin walked on the Moon, who remained in lunar orbit, aboard the Command Module Columbia?

Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: Born on July 30, 1818, Emily Brontë wrote as Ellis ___.
Clue B: Give something in return for money.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** On July 29, 1932, which female aviator received the Distinguished Flying Cross? Use these clues.
a) Atlantic
b) Ninety-Nines
c) Author
d) Disappearance

WINNER'S NAMES: Shrieya (15), Bengaluru; Mohammed Usman (13), Ballari; Nikhil N (15), Bengaluru.
ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: A1) Anne Sullivan, A2) Alexander Graham Bell, A3) Mahatma Gandhi, A4) Wall/Tall, A5) Mark Twain.

LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic 'Should schools make climate action projects compulsory?' Mail your works to o*pensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Entries close on July 9. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to artificial intelligence

If you could have a conversation with artificial intelligence, what would you like to know about it, and what would you tell it about yourself? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph. Entries close on July 16.

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'What freedom means to me...' to *Open Sesame*. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Entries close on July 23. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

Word of the Week

winsome

(adjective)
— attractive or appealing because of a cheerful, charming, and pleasant manner.

Usage:
— Aswathi's winsome smile made everyone feel welcome.
— Despite Sahil's nervousness, the young speaker had a winsome personality.

I don't want my films to be clouded by my personal philosophy; I am just trying to tell stories, the celebrated filmmaker tells Pranati A S in a freewheeling conversation

Imtiaz Ali on home and belonging

Basking in the success of 'Main Vaapas Aaunga', filmmaker Imtiaz Ali is travelling across India, visiting cinema halls and interacting with audiences. He stopped in Bengaluru last week, where he spoke to *Showtime* about the film, Sargodha, Partition, personal freedom, homeland and home.

Edited excerpts:

You have been getting so many responses for 'Main Vaapas Aaunga'. Does that make you hopeful?
(Laughs) It makes every filmmaker hopeful that there need not be any layers between the filmmaker and the audience. The response proves that the audience is not 'dumb'. In boardroom discussions, directors and writers are bombarded with "acquired knowledge" and asked to 'dumb down content, the audience will otherwise not understand'. Films are called content to begin with and reduced to formats.

Audience is also resonating with the film...
Yes! They have pointed out the positivity in the messaging. They have latched onto Pali Dada's dialogue: "We don't talk about the Partition because you will pick up hatred from it. I will not be able to explain to you what it actually was". This is something I have heard in Punjab, and now it is resonating with a wider audience. No sides were taken; nobody was criticised or glorified. It was a human drama, a personal drama. We didn't try to get brownie points by bashing anybody.

Your filmmaking style is to shoot on location. But Sargodha is on the other side of the border. How did that make you feel?
I realised pretty early that I'd never be able to shoot there, and I had made peace with that. I also realised there isn't much difference between the two sides. Whatever differences exist can easily be recreated here. I haven't been across myself, but everyone who has says the two places are remarkably similar. We shot Sargodha here, though if things had been different, we would have shot it there.

Is that why you refer to Sargodha as 'chand'?
That you can see it, but can't go there? (laughs) Maybe subconsciously. But the 'chand' reference comes from following Mr Inderjeet, a family friend who is 95 plus. He sometimes slips into imagination and says that he had gone to the moon, and when he went to the moon for the second time, there were these people who came... So I refer to the moon like that.

The Bengali lines in the song 'Dariya' rendered during the Partition sequence... were they your way of acknowledging Partition in the East as well?
Yes, we couldn't really do much with that, because the duration of the film was already 166 minutes. I wanted to acknowledge and register the fact that the same story had happened in Bengal. Just that this one is situated in Punjab.

What about the 'Ijaazat' reference in the end?
(Laughs) That was coincidental. But at the time when we were trying to find a title for this film, I was telling my friend Mohit (Choudhary), who is also the co-producer of the film, that I wanted to meet Gulzar *saab* and record his memories of the Partition. He said, 'You go meet him, don't ask for anything, just ask for his *ijaazat* (permission) to use the title 'Ijaazat' because that is the most suitable title.' (laughs) But I did not want to call it 'Ijaazat', because then the whole secret would be out.

You are a strong critic of corporate culture and capitalism...
Any culture that tries to fit people into geometric boxes — I have an almost illogical repugnance to that kind of setup. Corporate culture can exist without being anti-human. Markets should deliver to actual human needs rather than catering to corporate growth. As far as the individual versus the crowd theory is concerned, every individual should, at some point, and time and again, revolt a little bit. Following every rule will mess up the world. Challenging rules can be uncomfortable for society, but it is actually a hallmark of growth.

I don't want my films to be clouded by my personal philosophy. I'm just trying to tell stories. And whenever there's an opportunity — like in 'Sadda haq aithe rakh', which is about personal freedom and self-expression — these ideas strongly come into my work.

Imtiaz Ali says home to him is the image of him as a child, picking yellow neem fruits under a neem tree. DH ILLUSTRATION: SAJITH KUMAR

Most of us don't feel like we belong in our own homes and among people we have known forever. Is this search for belonging the real journey in your films?
With 'Tamasha', I realised I was talking to myself — that became the film's visual idiom. I felt a similar sense of belonging in 'Amar Singh Chamkila', through an artiste who belonged to the stage. That idea runs through most of my films: belonging to a place or a person, but ultimately, to oneself — the part of you that you're trying to reclaim by being somewhere, with someone, or doing something.

You say your films are apolitical. How can they be if they are rooted in human emotion?
They are not apolitical. They are political. In my films, politics is subservient to human emotion. Keenu and Jiya want to be with each other, and that's why they don't want Partition. The fervour with which Keenu bangs the ground and says, 'How do we know which part this will belong to? I don't care. I didn't ask for Partition' — he does not want to leave because he doesn't want to leave Jiya. In my films, politics is expressed through the emotional lives of my characters. And I feel that this has been the case in 'Chamkila' as well.

'Go to Pakistan' is used as an insult today. One would imagine many would probably want to visit their homeland...
Oh, yes. There are voluntary initiatives, like Back to Roots, which we feature in the film. You may not be able to visit Pakistan, but photographs and updates on what it looks like today reconnect you with your home there. For many, that's the first step towards eventually making the journey. I think we need more of that. The more people reconnect with their roots, the more whole their memory becomes.

Intergenerational displacement isn't unique to Punjab or Bengal; in some way, every Indian has experienced it. A psychiatrist once told me that memory is like a river flowing in both directions. If you interrupt that flow, trauma and memory-related issues become inevitable. Perhaps why conditions like Alzheimer's and dementia are so prevalent in Punjab.

What does home mean to you?
I can give a philosophical answer. But home to me means: 31 Flour-mill Road, Jamshedpur. I grew up there. My earliest memories are of this house.

And the philosophical one...
It is the image of oneself that one carries through one's life. My image is of the little kid under the neem tree, picking from the grass, yellow neem fruit, and trying to suck the sweet nectar from it.

(Read full interview on deccanherald.com/dh-specials)

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

Imtiaz Ali with the audience after a show of 'Main Vaapas Aaunga' at a multiplex in Bengaluru last week. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

MOVIE R | E | V | I | E | W | S

A despicably missed opportunity

TAHER AHMED

"Bello!" The Minions are back, bringing with them their trademark chaos, gibberish and an endless supply of bananas. Thankfully, they remain as entertaining as ever, proving that even after all these years, a yellow creature saying 'bababoi' can still raise a smile.

The problem is that 'Minions vs Monsters' never quite lives up to the promise of its title. The first half is enjoyable enough but spends so much time meandering that it almost forgets there are supposed to be monsters involved. When they finally arrive, their presence feels forced rather than earned, as though someone remembered the movie's title at the halfway point.

The movie follows the Minions' search for their big boss and the chaos that follows. The focus here is on James and Henry, best friends by default, chasing Hollywood dreams while stumbling from one absurd situation to another. It's a charming setup, but one that never fully capitalises on its potential.

A scene from the film.

★★★☆☆

Minions vs Monsters
English (Theatres)
Director: Pierre Coffin
Cast: Pierre Coffin, Trey Parker, Allison Janney

However, the writing lacks the wit, clever visual gags and slapstick mayhem that made the franchise a global phenomenon. Even the monster feels less like a villain and more like he'd rather be on a beach somewhere sipping piña coladas. The laughs are fewer, the stakes feel lower, and the madness never reaches the delightfully despicable heights fans have come to expect.

There are enough bananas and chuckles to keep younger audiences happy, but for a film called 'Minions vs Monsters', both sides deserved better. One brings the chaos, the other barely brings the menace. By the time the credits roll, you'll remember a few 'bello's and 'bababoi's — and not much else. Ironically, the end credits contain some of the film's sharpest writing.

Despicable? Not quite. Despicably meh? Much closer.

The Hood, the bad and the ugly

AMOGH RAVINDRA

'The Death of Robin Hood' is Robin Hood stripped of all the fun. Fifteen minutes in, Robin fires an arrow through a fleeing child's skull. This is not the Robin one knew in their childhood. Michael Sarnoski, the director of 'A Quiet Place: Day One', throws all of it out.

Set in 1247, the film finds Robin (Hugh Jackman) old, bearded and sick of his own myth. Never a hero, he and Little John (Bill Skarsgård) robbed and burned to survive, then let the legends grow. Dragged into one last fight, Robin ends up gravely wounded in a remote priory, nursed by a prioress, Sister Brigid (Jodie Comer), and left to mind Little John's orphaned daughter. He begged for a good death, but gets a reckoning instead.

The film splits cleanly in two. The first half hour is pure brutality, torches to the face and blades in flesh, shot in wide, murky frames. Then the frame tightens, daylight returns, and the pace drops to a crawl for a long study of guilt. Jackman holds the whole thing in his face and says almost nothing. He played a dying legend in Logan, and the echo is not subtle. Comer has one of the most expressive faces in the business doing quiet, anguished work here. Pat Scola's camera and Jim Ghedi's score are moody and beautiful.

The film is not bad, just slow, and not for everyone. It asks for patience and gives back mood, not momentum. Handsome, serious and hard to love. For a hero who never dies, this Robin cannot wait to.

Hugh Jackman plays Robin Hood.

★★☆☆☆

The Death of Robin Hood
English (Theatres)
Director: Michael Sarnoski
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Jodie Comer, Bill Skarsgård

Another 'enemy'-bashing dud

PRANATI A S

It feels almost unfortunate to be watching 'Alpha' when you're still in the mood 'Main Vaapas Aaunga' left you in. Released just three weeks apart, both films discuss India-Pakistan. While one is an anti-hate film calling for peace, the recently released one, like most films discussing India-Pakistan relations, chooses the easy way out of by demonising the other.

'Alpha' follows an army officer who, after the Kargil war, comes up with a top-secret training program to genetically enhance soldiers. Soldiers are injected with a serum called Alpha that gives them the ability to perform superhuman stunts and acquire an accelerated healing capacity. While the plan fails, a young Sita becomes a victim of the officer's desperate attempts to create strong soldiers to protect his country and prove his 'patriotism'.

Halfway into the film, you are excited, thinking it is a great commentary about *andhbhakti* (blind belief). But your eagerness is short-lived when the makers bring back the same old trope of the 'enemy' state. What 'Alpha' lacks and what lends the 'Pathaan' and 'Tiger' films their human core is the shared moral imperative of Indian and Pakistani operatives uniting to shield innocent lives. By reducing the narrative to a binary, black-and-white conflict, 'Alpha' flattens the layers that elevate a franchise such as this one.

Alia Bhatt and Sharvari as Sita and Durga deliver restrained performances even as they wield guns and beat up the 'bad' boys. It is delightful to watch the two of them bonding in the Kashmir valley as they climb mountains, jump into rivers and sleep under the stars. There isn't much to say about how technically sound the film is — as it should be like any other film made on this scale.

In today's fractured world, if only we did not have to see films made on the fragile emotions of the people! Is it much to expect banners such as YRF that made films like 'Veer-Zaara' to perhaps shoulder some responsibility?

Alia Bhatt and Sharvari

★☆☆☆☆

Alpha
Hindi (Theatres)
Director: Shiv Rawail
Cast: Alia Bhatt, Sharvari, Bobby Deol, Anil Kapoor

The process of industry manufacturing

NIKHIL WAIKER

A film industry stagnated by stardom and profits will suffer from artistic and philosophical vacuity and nepotistic tendencies. The age-old stories of a heroic-warrior destiny or a mellow cute-fated love story, designed to be fed with stale expositions and vain pop songs have become the mould for commercial films.

'Graamaayana', with its antiquated tropes and unimaginative depth in character arcs (worse so with the antagonist) hits like a cinematic déjà-vu plaguing the industry. The story of a city boy reluctantly rediscovering his roots in a village, with a predictability that you can map out every scene after the first ten minutes. The screenplay lurches from one cliché to the next, the buffoonish comic sidekick, a love story that never transcends awkward glances and sugary songs, action sequences with no spark of originality. The film leans lazily on a "product" we have endured countless times. Vinay Rajkumar tries to inject substance and depth to his character, but his transformation from urban snob to village admirer comes across as a checklist rather than an emotional journey. Megha Shetty's Kusuma is equally as bad, and the script offers her nothing beyond demure smiles and teary eyes. The film manages to carry this mediocrity till the very end.

Time and again, filmmakers urge audiences to watch Kannada films in theatres. Yet, more often than not, these films feel 'manufactured' for money and social clout rather than 'made' with an artistic drive.

★☆☆☆☆

Graamaayana
Kannada (Theatres)
Director: D Chandru
Cast: Vinay Rajkumar, Megha Shetty, Gopalkrishna Deshpande

'Obsession' is a world of capitalistic values where greed wins, writes Samvartha Sahil

The price of intimacy

Every work of art also needs a social climate to come to life. A film like 'The Banshees of Inisherin' (2022), for example, can only emerge in a world where the value of mutual responsibility has weakened, and there is a lack of accountability that is increasingly intellectualised and justified through such phrases as 'My life, my choice' and 'I don't owe anyone an explanation'. It is hardly a coincidence that such a film appeared at a time when leaders and governments across the world seem to have entered into a no-strings-attached relationship with the people.

At the same time, every work of art also helps shape the social climate it emerges from. So while a self-centric value system may be a precondition for a film like 'The Banshees of Inisherin', the other side of the coin is that the film itself can also strengthen and legitimise that very value system.

One should view Curry Barker's 'Obsession' in this context.

The film is about Bear, who is in love with Nikki. Out of fear of losing her, he hasn't confessed his feelings for her. One day, using a 'One Wish Willow', he makes the wish: 'I wish Nikki Freeman loves me more than anyone in this *beep* world'. His wish comes true, but with an unbearable twist. Nikki gets obsessed with him, her behaviour turns dreadful, making Bear wish for an exit from the relationship. The film also shows that Nikki is possessed because of the wish made, and the true Nikki is trapped underneath.

The film does two things here. Firstly, it punishes its protagonist, Bear, for desiring to be loved. All he does is make a wish, not different from what each one of us does when in love. His wish is clearly worded. He wishes for love. But what he receives is horror. On the other hand, when love blossoms in Nikki's heart, even if through cosmic intervention, she loses grip over herself. Is the film warning people about desiring for love? Because, through the narrative, it says desire for love will make horrors descend on your world and being in a relationship will make you lose your agency and autonomy.

In an extremely simplistic way, 'Obsession' equates love with obsession, relationship with loss of self, and belonging with entrapment (and the internet has gone berserk in its discourse around 'Obsession', simplistically equating wish with manipulation, and desire with abuse). Thus, the film criminalises and demonises simple human feelings and emotions. It contributes to a market-driven culture that benefits from breaking human connections (relations, unions, associations, etc). It is not a coincidence that this is also the time in history when humans are made to forget that they are relational beings. Result: 'solo tourism' is trendy, benefiting the tourism industry. 'Self-love' and 'boundaries' are promoted simplistically to benefit self-help and the wellness industry. Isolated humans, disconnected from others and themselves, become very profitable to the capitalistic society. Hence, connections have to be villainised so that people opt out of them voluntarily.

Inde Navarrette and Michael Johnston in 'Obsession'.

When Ian makes a wish for a million dollars with the same 'One Wish Willow', he gets it. But when Bear wishes for love, he gets horror. 'Obsession' is a world of capitalistic values where human desire and human emotions are made to face consequences, while greed and ambition win.

The company faces no consequences for exploiting human need and delivering a wrong 'product' (which is wrong even by market rules). Nikki says she wants to fall in love because she wants to bring a story to life (write a novel). Emotions at the service of ambition. Relation for the benefit of a project. No consequences. In addition, the film even rewards those who numb their emotions. Sarah, who loves Bear but doesn't desire a relationship with him nor pursue her love (an emotional laziness romanticised even by films like 'Past Lives'), gets University admission. But Nikki, who comes in contact with love, desire and relation (even if as a result of someone else's prayer), is shown to have lost her autonomy and forgotten her novel writing project. The film silently says that the desire for human connection comes in the way of ambition and makes a case for prioritising ambition over belonging.

Ambitious people are more profitable for a capitalistic world than people with emotions. Since emotions and relations make people human, a capitalistic world order requires humans to stay away from them. It wants to project love as obsession, relationship as loss of self, and belonging as entrapment. To conclude, 'Obsession' is anti-emotion, anti-relation.

(The author teaches screenwriting at FTII, Pune)

Quick take

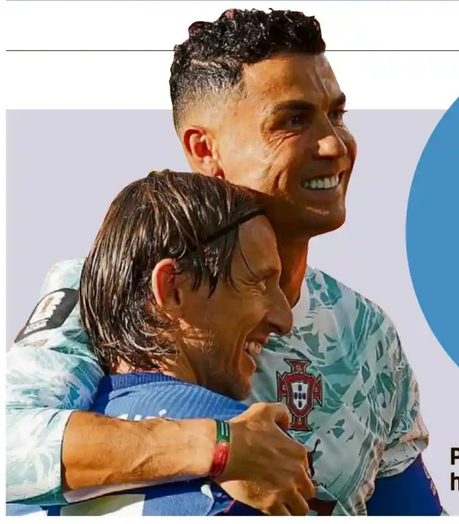
Bhakti season

▸ Bollywood's favourite side hustle is to now and then take part in a race to see who can outdo the other in professing undying devotion to PM Modi.

The latest and cringe-est entrant is Suniel Shetty. Armed with full method acting, he lauded a toddler's supposed reverence for the PM as a spiritual milestone (insert barf emoji).

What is he auditioning for exactly? Someone give him a 'Best Performance in Genuflection' award already.

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS



Bye, bye Lukita: fans sing to Modric

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (back) hugs Croatia's Luka Modric. REUTERS

TORONTO, AFP

Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic and Portugal's Roberto Martinez paid tribute on Thursday to Luka Modric, who almost certainly played his last World Cup match.

After a gut-wrenching 2-1 loss to Portugal in Toronto, Croatia midfielder Modric, 40, shared a long exchange with 41-year-old Cristiano Ronaldo -- two football greats nearing the end of their international playing careers.

"This was probably his last World Cup, and I'm sorry that it ended this way," said an emotional Dalic. "He has shown his quality and his character and of course he was leading Croatia until the very end."

Martinez lauded the Croatian great for having "inspired millions of kids."

"His example is going to stay in the folklore of football forever," Portugal's coach told reporters, highlighting Modric's in-match thinking.

It's not often that "we talk about that player that can put his foot on the ball and make a decision. I think Modric is the beautiful example of that.

"Depending on how the game goes, he finds the space, he makes the right call. It's incredible to see him play," said the Portugal coach Martinez, praising Modric for playing "the game like a young man."

Modric was the driving force behind Croatia's runner-up finish at the 2018 World Cup and their third-place finish in Qatar four years ago.

Ronaldo and Modric, who won four Champions Leagues in six seasons together at Real Madrid, have long defied Father Time but have shown their age in the 2026 tournament.

Ronaldo, who group stage performance was criticised, played his role in Thursday's victory, stroking home an equalizing second-half penalty.

Dalic said Modric was one of Croatia's "key players" on Thursday.

The AC Milan midfielder marked his 200th international appearance in a group-stage match last month, and was hoisted in the air by his teammates following that June 23 victory over Panama.

Portugal pay touching tribute to Diogo Jota

TORONTO, REUTERS: When Portugal beat Croatia in a scintillating World Cup game in Toronto, they were playing for something bigger than themselves - they were playing for Diogo Jota.

After the final whistle, Cristiano Ronaldo led his team on an emotional walk towards the Portugal fans wearing Jota's jersey number 21. It was a fitting tribute to a player who has meant so much for Portugal and whose memory the team has carried throughout this tournament.

Jota, 28, and his brother Andre Silva were killed in a car crash in northwestern Spain when their Lamborghini veered off the road and burst into flames on July 3 last year, an incident that plunged Portugal into grief and sent shockwaves around the football world.

Jota's close friend Ruben Neves, the Portugal midfielder, now wears the number 21. He kissed a wristband bearing the Liverpool forward's name as he stood for the anthem at the end of which Jota's image was cast on the big screen.

Ronaldo took to Instagram after the game as he held the shirt for a group picture with the team. The message read: "We won for us, Diogo and Portugal!"

Portugal coach Roberto Martinez, who has described Jota as "our light" and named him an honorary member of the squad, said his team's performance showed what the player meant for his team.

"Several beautiful symbols of power and energy and what Jota meant for the team. He was someone who believed, and we have (a) responsibility for Diogo and we are going to keep doing this," he told reporters.

The fans at the stadium did their part too. When the clock hit the 21-minute mark, they got up from their seats and unfurled a banner with his image and balloons that said 21.

In the end, if there was one player on the pitch who may have personified the livewire that Jota was in the dying minutes of the game, it was Goncalo Ramos. His goal sealed the team's spot in the last 16.

"We talk about him every day. He gives us strength," Ramos said.

Portugal players pay homage to Diogo Jota by holding up his No. 21 jersey on the first anniversary of his death. AP/PTI

Portugal survive exhilarating Croatian VAR

Balkans have late goal disallowed as Ronaldo's team advances to last 16

TORONTO, AFP

Substitute Goncalo Ramos' headed goal edged Portugal into the last 16 of the World Cup on Thursday after Croatia were dramatically denied an equaliser by VAR.

Ramos settled a classic World Cup game when he connected with a superb pass from Rafael Leao in the fourth minute of stoppage time to snuff out a Croatia team which had created the lion's share of the chances in sapping heat in Toronto.

Croatia thought they had snatched a goal in the dying seconds of extra time, but Josko Gvardiol's goal was chalked off for offside.

The Croatians were left stunned by the decision, and their fans began hurling rubbish on the pitch.

Portugal	Croatia
2	1

In the seconds before Gvardiol's disallowed goal, the Portuguese bench and coach Roberto Martinez were growing increasingly livid, begging match officials for the final whistle.

Cristiano Ronaldo played his role in the victory, stroking home a penalty that cancelled out Ivan Perisic's opener.

It was Ronaldo's first ever goal in the knockout phase of the World Cup, and it made him the oldest scorer in that phase in the tournament's history.

His remarkable international career will now have another chapter when Portugal face Spain in Dallas on Monday.

After the match, Ronaldo shared a long exchange with Croatian legend Luka Modric, one of football's all-time greats, whose World Cup career has almost certainly ended with Thursday's defeat.

The match marked the first time that two outfield players aged over 40 took to the same pitch in a World Cup.

At the end, the Portugal players also paid tribute to late team-mate Diogo Jota, who was killed in a car crash a year ago, by holding up his number 21 shirt.

After a lacklustre first half, Croatian veteran Perisic stunned the Portuguese by slotting the ball under the advancing Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa in the 53rd minute.

Portugal's Goncalo Ramos (second from left) heads the winner against Croatia during their last-32 clash in Toronto on Thursday. AP/PTI

Within minutes, Ronaldo had the ball in the net after controlling a long pass, but his effort was disallowed for offside.

But Portugal got level when Renato Veiga was grabbed by Croatia's Nikola Vlasic in the penalty area and after a VAR check, the referee pointed to the spot.

Ronaldo stepped up to convert the penalty with ease, hitting the ball straight down the middle of the goal and pumping his fists with joy afterwards, triggering defeaning cheers in the Toronto stadium.

In a pulsating game, Manchester City forward Mateo Kovacic's low shot was pushed onto a post by 'keeper Costa's fingertips.

Still Croatia pushed and Peta Sucic had the ball in the net but the assistant referee's flag was up for a clear offside. Ronaldo was withdrawn in the 81st minute to allow Ruben Neves to come on.

Portugal's Goncalo Ramos celebrates after scoring the winner against Croatia. REUTERS

The sellout crowd of 43,000 erupted with appreciation as Ronaldo went off -- unsure in the moment if he would appear again at in World Cup.

Croatia continued to create more chances than their opponents and Mario Pasalic came so close to winning the game with a header at the far post, but it bounced just wide.

But when Ramos connected, the net bulged and Portugal were through.

While the crowd tilted towards Portugal, the sizeable and vocal Croatian contingent smothered the stadium with boos every time Ronaldo touched the ball.

Tens of thousands of people with Portuguese lineage live in and around Toronto and Ronaldo's presence in the city also sparked waves of enthusiasm -- and chaos on a major highway a day before the match.

A familiar face stands in Colombia's way

KANSAS CITY, REUTERS

Colombia will look to build on one of the strongest group-stage campaigns at the World Cup when they face Ghana in the round of 32 on Friday, but standing in their way is a familiar face in their former coach Carlos Queiroz.

The Portuguese managed Colombia from 2019 to 2020 before leaving after heavy World Cup qualifying defeats by Uruguay and Ecuador, and faces his former side after guiding Ghana into the knockout stage as one of the tournament's best third-placed teams.

While Ghana had to wait to learn whether four points from Group L would be enough to advance behind England and Croatia, Colombia cruised through Group K unbeaten, finishing above Portugal after a thrilling scoreless draw in their final group match.

Nestor Lorenzo's Colombia have quietly established themselves among the tournament's most convincing teams, combining defensive solidity with the sort of attacking football that helped them top a group many considered one of the toughest.

Carlos Queiroz, former Colombia head coach but now with Ghana, needs to conjure all his wisdom if the Black Stars are to upset the South Americans. AFP

Midfielder Richard Rios said Colombia would not abandon the proactive approach that had carried them into the knockout phase.

"We have to keep working step by step because I feel we can go very far," Rios said.

"Every match is very difficult. Ghana may present a different physical challenge than Portugal. But if we approach every game the way we have been, showing everything we are capable of, it becomes much harder for our opponents.

"That's what we'll keep doing - imposing our game and going out to win," the 26-year-old added.

Queiroz, appearing at his sixth World Cup as a coach, is aiming to emulate the kind of joyful run Ghana had in 2010 when they reached the quarterfinals in South Africa.

"It's important that everyone wakes up in the morning and feels that happiness," captain Jordan Ayew said in an interview with Olympics.com. "It's been lacking for some years now, and to bring that back is a good feeling."

Chaotic end to a pulsating game

TORONTO, AP

In the 109th minute of a wild, pulsating, nerve-shredding World Cup match for the ages, referee Espen Eskas finally called time.

Portugal advanced to the round of 16 after a 2-1 win against Croatia at Toronto Stadium on Thursday.

That doesn't even begin to tell the story of the most dramatic of clashes that relentlessly swung back and forth and ended in the cruelest way for Croatia when Josko Gvardiol's would-be game-saving equaliser 13 minutes into added time was ruled out for offside after video review.

After 90 minutes of play, the electronic board signalled 10 mins, Rafael Leao sends a curling cross, and substitute Goncalo Ramos rises highest to meet it, powering a header beyond the dive of the Croatian goalkeeper at the 94th min.

Cue wild celebrations from Portugal's players. They now had to just ride out the final minutes and advance to the next round.

As the clock ticks into the 103rd minute, Croatia's Ivan Perisic hits a right-footed, in-swinging cross into the box.

Igor Mantanovic makes the slightest of glances with his head to flick the ball on. It bounces off the thigh of Mario Palasic and rolls across the face of goal.

Gvardiol lunges and sends the ball crashing into the back of the net.

Now it's time for Croatia's players and fans to go crazy. Ronaldo, meanwhile, shakes his head in disbelief.

But wait ... While celebrations are ongoing, replays show Palasic was in an offside position when the ball came to him. However, it hit Portugal defender Renato Veiga on the way, which raises the possibility of him being onside because a Portugal player made the last touch.

VAR quickly starts to review the footage. Croatia's hopes lie in the hands of the video assistants.

Sensors inside the World Cup ball can detect the slightest of touches and Eskas was instructed to go to the sideline monitor where he confirmed contact by Mantanovic.

"Croatia player number 20 touched the ball ... final decision: offside," he announced over the stadium speaker system.

Portugal's players cheered as if they'd scored a goal. In fury, Croatia fans threw bottles onto the field, delaying the restart.

Croatia fans threw bottles on the pitch to express their displeasure after Josko Gvardiol's last-gasp equaliser against Portugal in the last-32 clash was ruled offside. REUTERS

SCHEDULE

On Saturday

Colombia vs **Ghana** (07:00 am)

Canada vs **Morocco** (10:30 pm)

On Sunday

Paraguay vs **France** (02:30 am)

Live on Zee5 & Unite8. All timings in IST

Austria's Stefan Posch

Jaw braces keeping injured players on the field

NEW YORK, AP: In a sport of headers and constant collisions, a fractured jaw would seem like a tournament-ending injury. Not so much at the 2026 World Cup.

Austria defender Stefan Posch and England defender Djed Spence stand out on the field for the black jaw braces they have been wearing in matches.

Jaw braces the latest in protective gear for injured players: Players have long had to wear face protections for injuries like fractured cheek bones or broken noses.

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Box-office Spain click into gear

Oyarzabal brace helps La Roja set up last-16 clash with Portugal

LOS ANGELES, AFP

Spain coasted past Austria and into the World Cup last 16 on Thursday, thoroughly outclassing their opponents in a 3-0 knockout win with a brace from Mikel Oyarzabal and a Pedro Porro header.

The European champions controlled possession and sliced through the Austrian defense in a typically dominant performance in Los Angeles, as Hollywood stars Penelope Cruz, Javier Bardem and singer Rosalia cheered on.

The win -- which could have been by a greater margin, with a disallowed goal and a free kick off the woodwork -- sets up a tantalising round-of-16 clash with Portugal.

Spain	Austria
3	0

"We played a magnificent match. I am happy because, in every aspect, we came close to perfection," said Spain coach Luis de la Fuente.

"Every match from now on will be more complicated. Every match will be a bit more demanding. We are moving into a more critical phase" of the World Cup, he added.

The SoFi Stadium was a sea of red and excitement was sky-high over the first visit by a bona fide World Cup favorite to America's second city.

Mikel Oyarzabal (left) scores Spain's third goal in their 3-0 victory over Austria in the round of 32. AFP

Spain ratcheted up the pressure gradually through the first half, creating a string of chances after the first hydration break.

Marc Cucurella thought he had scored from a Lamine Yamal corner, but Pau Cubarsi was judged to have encroached on Austria's goalkeeper.

Alexander Schlager then made a superb diving save, pushing Oyarzabal's low shot around the post.

Austria's defense finally buckled in the 36th minute. Pedri pinged a ball wide left to Cucurella, whose cross to Oyarzabal was calmly side-footed past the 'keeper.

Spain's dominance grew further, with Yamal tormenting the Austrians, mainly from the right flank.

An Alex Baena free kick hit the crossbar, and Yamal's close-range follow-up shot was well saved.Austria spurned a rare chance at the other end. Romano Schmid played in a late-arriving and unmarked Stefan Posch, but a terrible first touch meant he lost the ball before even attempting a shot.

After the break Spain continued knocking on the door without quite putting the game to rest.

Austria sent on two giant strikers -- Sasa Kalajdzic and Marko Arnautovic -- and immediately went long, with Kalajdzic putting a header over the bar.

But in the 66th minute, Spain struck again. Baena lifted a cross onto the head of Pedro Porro, who nodded in his first goal for Spain.

Some dogged defending kept the scoreline respectable, including a goalline clearance by David Alaba from Yamal, who was substituted off to rest moments later.

Spain sprayed passes around the pitch as the final minutes ticked down, eliciting "Oles" from the crowd, as attention turned to a sterner test on Monday in Dallas.

In the 89th minute, a pinpoint Cucurella cross found a completely unmarked Oyarzabal in the penalty area, who slotted the ball home.

Despite the superb win, De la Fuente ominously told a press conference that his Spain side can still get better "in every area."

Mikel Oyarzabal scored a brace in Spain's convincing 3-0 victory over Austria in the round of 32 clash. AFP

Simon's record 519-minute watch guarding the net

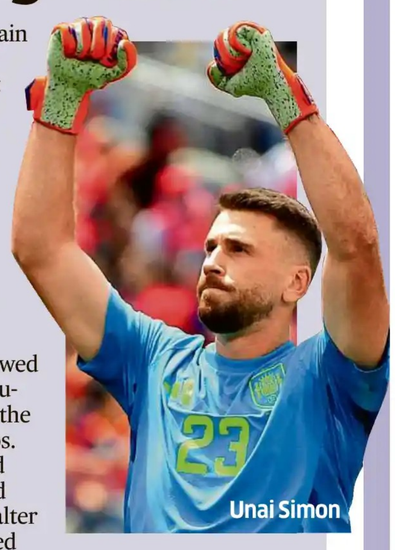
INGLEWOOD, AP: Spain goalkeeper Unai Simon has the longest shutout streak in World Cup history, breaking a 36-year-old record while blanking Austria in a 3-0 victory Thursday for his fourth consecutive clean sheet in this World Cup.

Simon hasn't allowed a goal in 519 consecutive minutes across the past two World Cups. He broke the record set in 1990 by famed Italy goalkeeper Walter Zenga, who recorded 517 straight scoreless minutes and five consecutive clean sheets in his home World Cup.

The 29-year-old Athletic Bilbao mainstay isn't the most famous goalkeeper in this competition - or even on his own team - but Simon's outstanding play at the back of Spain's superb defence has launched him into the World Cup record books.

Spain has yet to allow a goal at this World Cup, and its Basque backstop has only had to make four saves - none against Austria, which got none of its five shots on target.

"I feel proud of him," Spain coach Luis De La Fuente said. "I feel like he is a member of my family. I'm very happy for him."



Unai Simon

Simon has been Spain's first choice in net for most of the past half-decade, keeping the job despite roster competition from David Raya and Joan Garcia, the championship-winning goalkeepers in two of Europe's four biggest leagues.

Simon has spent his club career on smaller stages with Bilbao, which only reached the Champions League for the first time in his career last season.

Simon owes his international success to his stellar results and to his tight bond with De La Fuente, who has largely resisted calls to give more playing time to his goalkeeping options with more accomplished club careers.

Morocco face fearless Canada

HOUSTON (US), REUTERS

Canada's remarkable World Cup adventure has already secured their team a place in the country's sporting folklore and on Saturday they face Morocco, semi-finalists in 2022, with a place in the quarterfinals at stake.

Making only their third World Cup appearance, Canada have captured the imagination of a country more accustomed to celebrating ice hockey heroes than football stars. Their talisman Alphonso Davies played his first minutes at the tournament in the round-of-32 victory over South Africa as a 75th-minute substitute and could start in Houston on Saturday.

The pressure that may have burdened Canada before the tournament has largely evaporated and no matter what result they get against Morocco, they have broken numerous records -- including earning their first World Cup point and winning their first game.

That sense of freedom may be one of their greatest assets.

"Preparing for Morocco is like a gory, horrible nightmare," coach Jesse Marsch said. "(But) we want to be here and we expect to be here. So we know that everybody's going to write us off, and in that is an opportunity."

Morocco, however, are unlikely to be swayed by sentiment. If Canada have emerged as one of the tournament's feel good stories, Morocco arrived with much loftier ambitions.

Four years ago in Qatar they became the first African nation to reach a World Cup semifinal, defeating heavyweights Spain and Portugal in their dream run to finish fourth. Far from being satisfied with that groundbreaking achievement, the Atlas Lions have proved four years later that Qatar was no anomaly, drawing with Brazil to top their group before eliminating the Netherlands.

A fit-again Alphonso Davies, Canada's talismanic player, is likely to start against Morocco on Saturday. AFP

Tactically sound Switzerland slay Algeria

Dan Ndoye celebrates after scoring Switzerland's second goal in their round-of-32 win over Algeria at BC Place in Vancouver. AFP

VANCOUVER, REUTERS

Switzerland striker Breel Embolo struck early and winger Dan Ndoye added a second as their side cruised to a 2-0 win over Algeria on Thursday and into the last 16 at the World Cup, where they will meet Colombia or Ghana back in Vancouver next week.

Murat Yakin's Swiss side put on a tactical masterclass, shifting formations and laying traps for Algeria before hitting them with two sucker-punch goals that decided a contest short on excitement, but full of intrigue and nuance. Pitted against a familiar foe in Algeria coach Vladimir Petkovic, who had seven years at the helm of Switzerland between 2014 and 2021, Yakin set his team up to absorb early pressure and strike on the break, and that is exactly what they did.

Switzerland	Algeria
2	0

Their opener was as simple as it was effective.

The Swiss won the ball in their own half and sent 20-year-old Johan Manzambi off down the left on the counter, and he squared for Embolo to steer the ball into the net from close range in the 10th minute.

The lead secured, Switzerland shifted to a five-man midfield out of possession, snuffing out the space and challenging the Algerians to play through them, but Petkovic's charges struggled to break their opponents down.

Algeria's best chance came in first-half stoppage time when Ibrahim Maza dragged a snap shot wide of the near post, one of few efforts on goal they managed.

France wary of Paraguay revenge mission

NEW YORK, REUTERS

France arrive in Philadelphia as the World Cup's most feared attacking force but Kylian Mbappe and coach Didier Deschamps have warned that acclaim, records and a seemingly clear path mean little if they fail to stay grounded against Paraguay in Saturday's last-16 clash.

Les Bleus have won all four matches, scored 13 goals and conceded two, with Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele, and Bradley Barcola netting 12 of them. A bench containing Rayan Cherki, Desire Doue and Jean-Philippe Mateta gives Deschamps options most opponents can only envy.

"I'm fully aware of what's at stake, where I am and what I have to do," Mbappe said after scoring twice in Tuesday's 3-0 win over Sweden. "The team know what they have to do here as well. A new competition is starting."

Julio Enciso (left) is to lead Paraguay's charge against France, featuring Golden Boot leader Kylian Mbappe. AFP

Deschamps has warned Paraguay's victory against Germany was no fluke as Paraguay draw inspiration from Julio Enciso, who took the last match to shootout through his extra-time goal before eliminating Germany.

"I've watched Paraguay: what they have achieved is no accident," he said. "It is a typical South American team, strong in the duels and very tenacious, and they also have players of great quality. No team reaches the last 16 of the World Cup by chance."

For all the French hype, Paraguay will arrive with a clear plan and an old grievance.

Their World Cup campaign ended against France in the last 16 in Lens in 1998, when Laurent Blanc's golden goal in the 114th minute sealed a 1-0 extra-time victory on the way to the hosts' first world title. Deschamps was the captain that day.

Former Paraguay forward Miguel Angel Benitez said the South Americans must play with heart and soul but cannot lose concentration for even 10 seconds against a France attack capable of punishing the smallest lapse.

Irene, Gaurav emerge age-group champions

BENGALURU, DHNS: Gaurav Gowda and Irene Anna S won the boys' U-17 and girls' U-15 singles titles respectievly at the Karnataka State Ranking table tennis tournament in Mangaluru on Friday.

Irene, who finished runner-up in the U-19 category, defeated Mihika Udupa 13-11, 11-9, 11-6 in the final.

The U-17 boys final saw similar dominance as Gaurav, who also finished runner-up in U-19 section, outplayed Tamoghna Mundagri 11-8, 11-7, 11-6.

Both champions had to work much harder in the semifinals before cruising through their respective finals. Irene survived a stern test from Krisha Karkera, fighting back to register a 7-11, 11-8, 11-9, 10-12, 11-8 victory.

Gaurav Gowda (left) and Irena Anna S pose with their spoils.

In the boys' U-17 semifinals, Gaurav overcame Shubham Trivedi 5-11, 11-5, 11-5, 9-11, 11-5, while Tamoghna defeated Aarnav Naveen 11-8, 11-13, 7-11, 11-7, 11-5 to set up the title clash.

Results: Final: Boys: U-17: Gaurav Gowda bt Tamoghna Mundagri 11-8, 11-7, 11-6.

Girls: U-15: Irene Anna S bt Mihika Udupa 13-11, 11-9, 11-6.

Djokovic reaches another milestone

LONDON, AFP

Novak Djokovic earned another slice of Wimbledon history as the seven-time winner advanced to the fourth round, while defending champion Jannik Sinner powered past Jenson Brooksby on Friday.

Djokovic beat French 25th seed Arthur Rinderknech 7-5, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7/4) on Centre Court to equal Roger Federer's men's singles record for most match wins at Wimbledon.

Russia's eighth seed Daniil Medvedev was shocked by world number 74 Jan-Lennard Struff in straight sets 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), 7-5.

Meanwhile, Sinner, who has never lost a Grand Slam match to a player ranked as low as world number 81 Brooksby, delivered an imperious display on Court One to keep that streak intact with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 win.

Elsewhere in Friday's third-round action, Japan's Naomi Osaka ended her long wait to reach the Wimbledon fourth round for the first time with a 6-1, 6-3 win against Australian Daria Kasatkina.

Osaka has caused a stir at Wimbledon with her eye-catching outfits, but the 28-year-old is finally stealing the spotlight with her performances as well.

She needed just 65 minutes to dispatch Kasatkina, setting up a fourth-round clash against Sabalenka or Ostapenko.

World number one Aryna Sabalenka stepped up her bid for a maiden title with an impressive straight-sets victory over Jelena Ostapenko.

The Belarusian was too strong for Latvia's Ostapenko, winning 6-4, 6-4 to book a last-16 tie against Osaka on Sunday.

Meanwhile Djokovic's record-equalling effort also meant that Martina Navratilova (120) is the only player to have won more singles matches at Wimbledon than him and Federer.

Djokovic also tied Federer for most appearances in the last 16 of the men's singles at Wimbledon in the Open era, making the fourth round for the 18th time. Djokovic is only the fourth man in the Open era to make the last 16 at Wimbledon aged 39 or older after Federer, Pancho Gonzales and Ken Rosewall.

He arrived at Wimbledon targeting a record 25th Grand Slam singles crown, which would break a tie with Margaret Court and draw him level with Federer's record eight titles at the All England Club.

Winning Wimbledon would also make Djokovic the oldest man to lift a Grand Slam trophy in the Open era.

He meets Russian qualifier Roman Safiullin, who beat Brazilian Joao Fonseca in straight sets, next in round of 16.

Result (Prefix denotes seedings): 3rd round: Men: 1-Jannik Sinner (Ita) bt Jenson Brooksby (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4; Shintaro Mochizuki (Jpn) bt 23-Rafael Jodar (Esp) 1-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4, 6-4; Jan-Lennard Struff (Ger) bt 8-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), 7-5; Roman Safiullin (Rus) bt 24-Joao Fonseca (Bra) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; 7-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt 25-Arthur Rinderknech (Fra) 7-5, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (4).

Women: 1-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Jelena Ostapenko (Lat) 6-4, 6-4; 14-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) bt Daria Kasatkina (Aus) 6-1, 6-3; 4-Jessica Pegula (USA) bt Jessica Bouzas Maneiro (Esp) 6-1, 6-3; 16-Iva Jovic (USA) bt 18-Ekaterina Alexandrova (Rus) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; 11-Belinda Bencic (Sui) bt 19-Anna Kalinskaya (Rus) 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (6).

Serbia's Novak Djokovic matched Roger Federer's record of most appearances in the last 16 of the men's singles at Wimbledon in the Open era. REUTERS

England lock in final date with Australia

LONDON, AFP: England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt led from the front on her return from injury with a superb 75 in a 40-run Women's T20 World Cup semifinal thrashing of South Africa at the Oval on Thursday.

England, sent in to bat, slumped to 23/3 inside four overs in front to spark fears of yet another knockout loss in a showpiece event.

But Sciver-Brunt, back after missing the last three group games with a calf injury, counter-attacked to the delight of a crowd of over 21,000.

She received excellent support from former skipper Heather Knight (58) as the two survivors from the last England side to win a major international trophy -- the 2017 50-over World Cup -- turned the tide with a fourth-wicket partnership of 133 that took their team to a total of 169/5.

Brief scores: England: 169/5 in 20 overs (Nat Sciver-Brunt 75, Heather Knight 58; Shabnim Ismail 2-31, Nonkululeko Mlaba 2-25) bt South Africa: 129/8 in 20 overs (Tazmin Brits 51; Lauren Bell 2-28, Charlie Dean 2-31). **Result:** England won by 40 runs. **PoM:** Nat Sciver-Brunt.

Bhatkal's knock steers Warriors to thrilling win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ritesh Bhatkal's unbeaten 75 in 42 balls was the highlight of Mysore Warriors three-wicket victory over Gulbarga Mystics in DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 in Hubballi on Friday. It was another thriller with Bhatkal holding things together to steer the Warriors home in 19.3 overs.

Chasing 197, the 33-year-old all-rounder dug deep into his reserves, pulled the team back from early hiccups (2/39) and remained unconquered with four fours and five sixes.

The other match on the day saw an almost identical chase as Bengaluru Blasters beat Hubli Tigers by three wickets off the last ball. Praveen Dubey starred with 64 not out to chase down a target of 198.

Brief scores: Gulbarga Mystics 196/7 in 20 overs (Macneil Noronha 27, Dhruv Prabhakar 51, Thippa Reddy 51, Manish Pandey 41 n.o.; Arbind Rai 3-31, Lavish Kaushal 3-25) lt to Mysore Warriors 197/7 in 19.3 overs (Ritesh Bhatkal 75 n.o., Lankesh KP 29; Nathan D'Mello 3-38, Paras Gurbax Arya 2-24, Ronit More 2-41).

Hubli Tigers: 197/6 in 20 overs (Shivkumar Rakshith 50 n.o., Abhinav Manohar 35, Kruthik Krishna 34, Aneeshwar Gautam 31, Manvanth Kumar L 28 n.o.; Shubhang Hegde 2-24) lt to Bengaluru Blasters: 200/7 in 20 overs (Praveen Dubey 64 n.o., Shubhang Hegde 41, Krishnan Shrijith 25, Wahid Faizan Khan 25; Shikhar Shetty 3-19, Vaibhav Sharma A 2-56).

IN BRIEF

Former football coach no more

▸ G V Venugopal, a former Sports Authority of India (SAI) football coach, 68, died following a heart attack, reports DHNS.

Hailing from Gudlupet, Venugopal was deputed as a coach at SAI Lakshadweep and also completed a stint at the National Institute of Sports (NIS) before calling time in 2018. He also played for Mysore Java Factory FC as a goalkeeper.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

2nd T20I: England vs India **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

2nd Test: West Indies vs Sri Lanka **(Day 2, 7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

TENNIS

Wimbledon: Round 3 **(3:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar**.

BADMINTON

Canada Open: Semifinals **(8:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel, JioHotstar**.

MOTORSPORTS

F1: British GP Sprint race **(5 pm)**, Qualifying **(8:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

CRICKET SECOND T20I

Spotlight on misfiring Samson

Opener needs a big knock to quieten Soorya's buzz

MANCHESTER, PTI

With Vaibhav Sooryavanshi breathing down his neck, Sanju Samson will be under pressure to turn the frequent busts in his performance graph into consistent booms as India take on England in the second T20 International here on Saturday.

The first game was abandoned after India posted a healthy 189 for 7 at the Chester-Le-Street in Durham, riding on half-centuries from Abhishek Sharma and skipper Shreyas Iyer.

However, the focus of attention during the next few games would be Samson and whether he can weather the Sooryavanshi storm that is building up on the sidelines.

In an alternate universe, three back-to-back match-winning knocks in India's T20 World Cup triumph would have given Kerala's most 'globally followed' sporting icon a cushion for a year.

But with Indian cricket discovering the generational talent of Sooryavanshi, Samson's margin for error has become minimal and the T20 World Cup halo alone can't save him.

With Abhishek smashing his way to 49 and 59 in two of the last three games, the pressure is entirely on Samson to get some runs under his belt.

In the opening game that was washed out, Samson looked miserable scoring a single run off seven balls and not for once did it seem that he is trying to take the high-risk high-reward route.

The technical flaws in Samson's game don't inspire a lot of confidence when he plays on seaming tracks. Ireland's unheralded Jai Moondra, who actually hails from Rajasthan's Tonk, had exposed his frailties during successive games with deliveries that moved off the surface.

In case of Samson, the occasional high scores have always been flanked by a series of low returns on either side and that has been his biggest bane.

While the team management is firm on not pushing the 15-year-old Sooryavanshi but he possibly can't be kept cooling his heels if this continues for another couple of games.

However, it is not just Samson who is struggling in this batting order.

The highly talented Tilak Varma's held-back approach in the middle overs is also an issue.

Varma simply seems incapable of pushing the scoring rate once slow bowlers come into operation or seamers take pace off their deliveries.

In 12 T20I games in 2026, Varma has been able to hit only 12 sixes -- which is one per game.

And that statistic is poor for anyone who is seen as a finisher.

The bowling department is unlikely to feature any changes as Old Trafford track offers some grip and wrist spinners have had a good time at the venue.

Incidentally, the best figures in any T20I at Old Trafford is held by India's Kuldeep Yadav, who isn't a part of this squad.

For England, the power-packed batting line-up led by skipper Harry Brook and the dynamic duo of Phil Salt and Tom Banton can take the Indian attack on.

But once again the intrigue surrounds Sooryavanshi. To play or not to play remains the lingering question.

Under fire following three successive failures, a desperate Sanju Samson will be gunning for a big knock in the second T20I versus England on Saturday. AFP

LIVE 7:00 PM, SONY SPORTS & JIOHOTSTAR

Coles, Tongue for India ODIs

Uncapped all-rounder James Coles and fast bowler Josh Tongue were on Friday named in England's 16-member side to face India in a three-match ODI series later this month, reports PTI from London.

India and England, who are currently engaged in a five-match T20I series, will play three ODIs on July 14, 16 and 19 in Birmingham, Cardiff and Lord's respectively.

England also named seamers Gus Atkinson and 29-year-old Saqib Mahmood in the squad to take on a near full-strength India, with Virat Kohli's availability depending on his fitness.

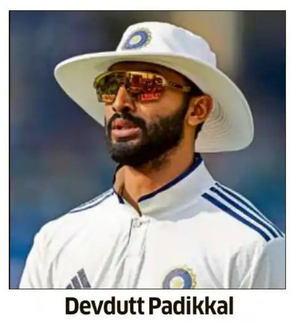
Former India skipper Rohit Sharma and ace fast bowler Jasprit Burmah are set to feature in the series.

England squad: Harry Brook (capt), Tom Banton (wk), Jacob Bethell, Joe Root, Ben Duckett, Jos Buttler (wk), Will Jacks, Rehan Ahmed, Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, James Coles, Sam Curran, Liam Dawson, Saqib Mahmood, Adil Rashid, Josh Tongue.

Sai, Padikkal put India A in control

Gurnoor, Saransh take 4-fors after Sahan century

GALLE, PTI



Devdutt Padikkal

Opener Sai Sudharsan continued his rich vein of form, notching up a second successive hundred of the series as India A finished Day 2 of the second unofficial Test at a strong 247 for one here on Friday.

India A are now trailing by 119 runs, after bowling out their Sri Lankan counterparts for 366 in their first innings.

The visitors' command performance was orchestrated by Sudharsan (104 batting), who fetched his 10th first-class hundred off 166 balls, and Devdutt Padikkal, who was equally fluent during his unbeaten 94 off 151 balls.

The two left-handers added 181 runs for the unfinished second wicket stand after Aman Mokhade departed for 38.

The opening wicket stand between Sudharsan and Mokhade was worth 66 runs.

Off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha ousted Mokhade but that was the lone success the hosts had on the day on a rather slow turner.

Thereafter, Sudharsan and Devdutt outclassed the Lankan bowlers with ease. The Tamil Nadu batter reached his fifty in 85 balls with a boundary off pacer Asanka Manoj, and later completed the hundred without much fuss.

Sudharsan had made a century in the drawn first unofficial Test as well, and in all likelihood he has sealed a place in the soon-to-be announced India squad for the away two-match Test series against Sri Lanka.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka A: (O/n: 288/5): 366 all out in 110 overs (Pawantha Weerasinghe 37, Sohan de Livera 28, Nuwanidu Fernando 44, Ashen Bandara 34, Sahan Arachchige 127, Anjala Bandara 42; Saransh Jain 4-92, Gurnoor Brar 4-77, Yash Thakur 2-46) vs India A: 247/1 in 63 overs (Sai Sudharsan 104 n.o., Aman Mokhade 38, Devdutt Padikkal 94 n.o.).

Aakarshi, Tanya crash out

MARKHAM (CANADA), PTI: Tanya Hemnath and Aakarshi Kashyap lost their women's singles second round matches to draw curtains to the Indian challenge at the Canada Open here.

Tanya lost to third seed Riko Gunji of Japan 11-21, 11-21 in 31 minutes while Aakarshi went down fighting to fourth seed Beiwen Zhang of USA 22-20, 17-21, 17-21 in the second round match that lasted one hour and seven minutes.

Earlier, Tanya had prevailed 21-16, 21-18 over USA's Disha Gupta in the opening round while Aakarshi saw off Anna Tatranova 21-14, 21-12.

With the ouster of Tanya and Aakarshi, the Indian challenge ended at the Super 300 tournament.

Double delight for Avni

BENGALURU, DHNS

Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre's Avni D Nallode starred on the opening day of the NRJ State Sub-Junior Swimming Championships, clinching a golden double in the girls' U-11 400m freestyle and 100m freestyle events here on Friday.

NAC also struck gold through Chetan N Ganapa (boys' U-14 100m breaststroke) and Sara Ashokkumar (girls' U-11 100m breaststroke).

The academy finished the day with an impressive haul of 11 medals (four gold, two silver and five bronze).

Chetan N Ganapa won the boys' U-14 100m breastroke event on Day 1 of the NRJ State Sub-Junior Championships. NAC

Results: Winners only: Boys: U-14: 400m freestyle: Shreyas Sunil (SwimLife Swimming Academy) 4:19.78; **100m breaststroke:** Chetan N Ganapa (Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre) 1:10.26; **200m backstroke:** Shlok S Jadhav (Swimmers' Club Belgaum) 2:25.34; **50m butterfly:** S Krish (Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre) 27.31; **100m freestyle:** S Krish (BAC) 55.72.

U-13: 400m freestyle: Pavan Krishnaa N (BAC) 4:26.10; **100m breaststroke:** Tanush T Murthy (BAC) 1:17.35; **200m backstroke:** Lohitashwa Nagesh (Lakshyan Academy of Sports) 2:27.48; **50m butterfly:** Siddhanth Honnappa (BAC) 30.34; **100m freestyle:** Amith H Pavan (JIRS) 57.06.

U-12: 400m freestyle: Aveek Namit Gowda (Matsya Incorporation) 4:49.11; **100m breaststroke:** Daniel Emmanuel Saldanha (BAC) 1:18.86; **100m freestyle:** Vivaan Krishna TS (Ray Aquatic Center) 1:01.96.

U-11: 400m freestyle: Ishaan Pal (Nisha Millets Swimming Academy) 5:06.53; **100m breaststroke:** Lochan Vedanth (Global Swim Centre) 1:31.50; **100m freestyle**: Ishaan Pal (NMSA) 1:07.41.

Relay: U-13 & U-14: 4x100m medley relay: BAC 4:30.29.

Girls: U-14: 400m freestyle: Idika Bhat (Zee Swim Academy) 4:45.97; **100m breaststroke:** Inchara HR (LAS) 1:19.35; **200m backstroke:** Sumedha Venigalla (Dolphin Aquatics) 2:35.50; **50m butterfly:** Manya R Wadhwa (DA) 30.28; **100m freestyle:** Idika Bhat (ZSA) 1:02.36.

U-13: 400m freestyle: Nyra Bopanna K (SLSA) 4:47.41; **100m breaststroke:** Drithi Abhilash (BAC) 1:25.68; **200m backstroke:** Nyra Bopanna K (SLSA) 2:34.34; **50m butterfly:** Shwiti Diwakar Suvarna (BAC) 30.83; **100m freestyle:** Nyra Bopanna K (SLSA) 1:03.63.

U-12: 400m freestyle: Jharna Sisodiya (Ekalavya Sports Academy) 5:02.02; **100m breaststroke:** Rithanya S (BAC) 1:23.55; **100m freestyle:** Gayathri Somayaji (SLSA) 1:05.90.

U-11: 400m freestyle: Avni D Nallode (NAC) 5:09.73; **100m breaststroke:** Sara Ashokkumar (NAC) 1:27.12; **100m freestyle:** Avni D Nallode (NAC) 1:09.28.

Relay: U-13 & U-14: 4x100m medley relay: BAC 4:52.90.

Hamilton storms to sprint pole

Lewis Hamilton

SILVERSTONE (UK), AFP: Lewis Hamilton claimed pole position for Saturday's sprint race at the British Grand Prix with a supreme qualifying lap in his Ferrari to beat Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli by 0.011 seconds. The seven-time world champion, enjoying a memorable day at his home event where he has won a record nine times in the British Grand Prix, clocked a best lap in 1:28.376.

It was enough to secure pole ahead of the 19-year-old championship leader with four-time champion Max Verstappen snatching third for Red Bull ahead of Charles Leclerc in the second Ferrari and George Russell in the Mercedes.

World champion Lando Norris was sixth ahead of McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri, Isack Hadjar in the second Red Bull and the two Racing Bulls of Liam Lawson and Arvid Lindblad.

Gukesh overcomes Giri to climb to joint second spot

ZAGREB (CROATIA), PTI: World champion D Gukesh made good use of his white pieces to beat Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri in the final game of the day to rise to joint second spot after the second day of the Zagreb leg of the Grand Chess Tour here.

Iranian Grandmaster Firouzja Alireza is at the top by extending his lead by a huge three points.

With 10 points in his kitty out of a possible 12, Alireza is far ahead of his rivals -- Vincent Keymer of Germany, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania and Gukesh, who all have identical seven points.

Another half point behind are India's R Praggnanandhaa, Giri and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan while Croatioan Ivan Saric and Dutchman Jorden van Foreest are at the bottom of the table with just two points apiece.

Gukesh made most of his opportunities against Giri in a Ruy Lopez exchange variation.

D Gukesh

For once, the Dutch Grandmaster of Nepalese origin was seen lost from his prep book as Gukesh launched an attack against his king and never looked back.

Winning an exchange, the youngest ever world champion did nothing wrong in wrapping up a fine victory.

Standings (After round 6 rapid): 1: Firouzja Alireza (Fra, 10); **2-5:** Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra), D Gukesh (Ind) Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rou), Vincent Keymer (Ger) 7 each; **6-8:** R Praggnanandhaa (Ind), Anish Giri (Ned), Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) 6 each; **9-10:** Jorden van Foreest (Ned), Ivan Saric (CRO) 2 each.

Diksha in 4-way tie at top

HULENCOURT (BELGIUM), PTI: Diksha Dagar opened with a solid 4-under 68 to share the lead with three other golfers while fellow Indian Aditi Ashok carded 2-under 70 to be at tied seventh after the first day at the Hulencourt Women's Open.

Avani Prashanth shot even par 72 and was T-24 while Pranavi Urs (73) was T-33.

Diksha was tied at the top with South Africa's Nadia van der Westhuizen, Switzerland's Morgane Metraux and England's Bronte Law with cards of 68 each.

Teeing up in the morning, Diksha's fine form continued as she went bogey-free, firing birdies at the first, sixth, 10th and 14th to set the early pace at Hulencourt Golf Club.

"It was a very steady day of golf," the 25-year-old Indian said.

Diksha is in excellent form at the moment, arriving in Belgium off the back of four top-20 finishes in a row, dating back to the Lalla Meryem Cup.

Two weeks ago, the Indian missed out on getting into a playoff by one shot at the Dutch Ladies Open, finishing the week at T-3.

What's our achievement beyond Asia, asks Sreejesh

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

He may have kept the fiercest strikers in the world quiet with his work under the bar, but the slightest of a wrong move -- either by a team-mate or himself -- on the hockey pitch was sure to trigger a hostile reaction from the former Indian goalkeeper P R Sreejesh. While most termed it emotional outburst, for the two-time Olympic bronze medallist Sreejesh it was always about meeting the high standards he had set for the team and himself.

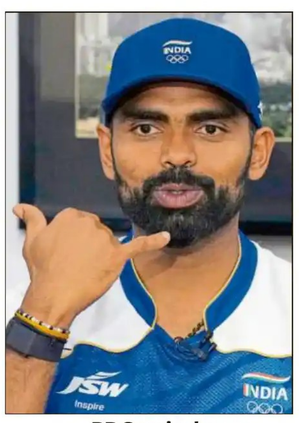
Post his retirement in 2024, the Kerala player's animated-self came alive as a coach with the Indian junior men's squad before being terminated from the role by Hockey India this May. Now, Sreejesh, staying true to his nature, is voicing his opinions/ displeasures on certain 'moves and decisions' of HI or the Indian men's team.

"Once you speak the truth, it is really difficult to get back into the system. I understand that very well after having played for so long. But someone has to ask the tough questions, right," the 38-year-old Khel Ratna awardee tells *DH*.

This was a day after Sreejesh put out a tweet about the dip in the world rankings of the Indian men's and women's teams to No. 8 and No. 9 respectively besides questioning the foreign head coaches' performance outside attaining continental success.

The mic drop: Are the foreign coaches worth the salaries they are paid? And by doing so, Sreejesh has, once again, woken up both his supporters and detractors.

"I haven't exaggerated anything," he insists. "People say, the new coaching staff (Craig Fulton & Co) came in 2023 and within a year they produced an Olympic medal (Paris 2024 bronze). Yes, that's a great achievement. But what after that? At the FIH Pro League we have struggled to maintain consistency and finished at the bottom for two years straight.



PR Sreejesh

PR SREEJESH
Former India hockey captain

"People say, the new coaching staff (Craig Fulton & Co) came in 2023 and within a year they produced an Olympic medal (Paris 2024 bronze). Yes, that's a great achievement. But what after that? At the FIH Pro League, we have struggled to maintain consistency and finished at the bottom for two years straight.

"Evaluate honestly and we know India is way ahead of the other Asian countries. So winning Asian Games gold should be a cakewalk this time. Being the best in the continent is good but what beyond it? At the world stage?"

Murmurs of Sreejesh being bitter for being removed as the junior men's coach have refused to die down. While dismissing such judgements, he stresses that batting for more Indian coaches in the national set-up was out of 'care and concern' for providing opportunities to locally grown professionals.

"I'm not against any foreign coaches. But appointing foreign coaches for junior level as well? Where do the Indian coaches go or develop? Ignore me. I'm done. There are other coaches who are doing courses, learning, who want to work in the national team, what do they do? It's demotivating for them. If I'm never going to get a place as a coach in the national team then why am I doing this? Where is my progression? I'm not fighting with anyone. I'm just questioning based on facts."

Sreejesh admits that the manner in which he was asked to leave the coaching job hurt him, even after leading the side to a bronze medal at the Junior World Cup in Chennai last December. But, the many failures on the field have taught him enough to quickly move on from things not in his control. Does his straight-forward, no bounds attitude worry him about provoking people? The Joint Director in the Department of General and Higher Education for the Government of Kerala smiles before offering: "What is the worst that can happen? I won't be back in the Indian team as a coach? I accepted this reality a long time ago. The way my bread and butter is earned is already sorted. I'm happy."

Circle Of Dreams fancied

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

S S Attaollahi-trained Circle Of Dreams, to be ridden by Akshay Kumar, is tipped to land the spoils in the DM Kumaraswamy Memorial Trophy over 1600m, the main event of the races to be held here on Saturday. First race starts at 2.30 pm.

1. Mauritius Pearl Plate Plate 1400M: Shining Dawn 1, Garzian 2, Fortissima 3.
2. Skyline Plate (Div III) 1400M: Double Scotch 1, Whitney 2, Sling Shot 3.
3. Veterinarian's Cup 1200M: Aphelion 1, Magestic Persona 2, Aatherv 3.
4. DM Kumaraswamy Memorial Trophy 1600M: Circle Of Dreams 1, Hazel 2, Manwar 3.
5. Skyline Plate (Div II) 1400M: Glaze 1, Anzac Parade 2, Lg's Script 3.
6. Skyline Plate (Div I) 1400M: Sherlock 1, Turkoman 2, Divo 3.
Day's best: Sherlock.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Mini jackpot:** 3, 4, 5 & 6. **I treble:** 1, 2 & 3. **II treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

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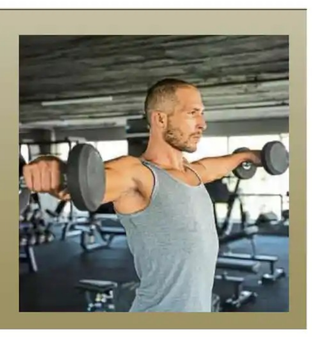
DECCAN HERALD
Saturday, July 4, 2026

Wknd.

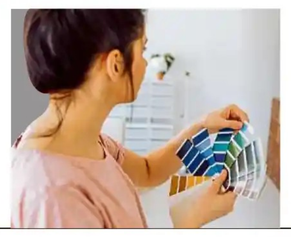
Strong shoulders enhance mobility, stability & quality of life
FIGHTING FIT P04



ADVERTORIAL & PROMOTIONAL LIFESTYLE FEATURE

PURE COCOA BLISS! PAGE 02

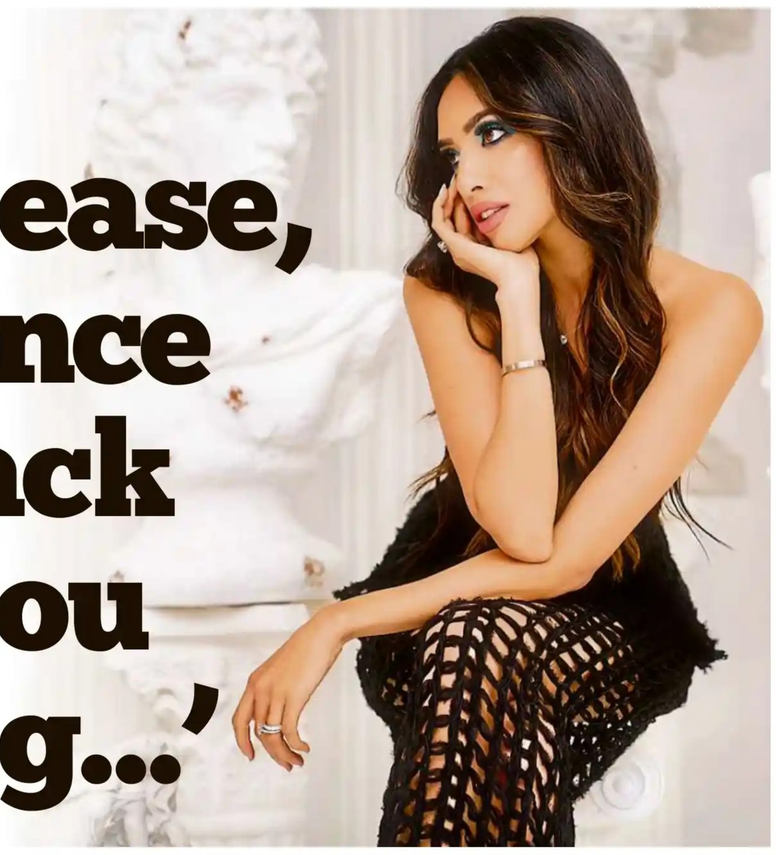
FACE THE RAINS IN STYLE PAGE 03



COLOUR CODE TO KEEP YOUR CHIN UP PAGE 04

SHOW BUZZ | Raveena Mehta

'Every release, performance and setback teaches you something...'



Singer Raveena Mehta released her debut English single, 'Talk to Me', recently, having built her musical journey across different sounds and audiences. This release marks an important milestone as she steps into the English music space with a deeply personal R&B-inspired ballad that explores themes of longing, vulnerability and unfinished conversations.

Shilpi Madan caught up with her for this chat.

From 'Deep Within' to 'Yadein', 'Bewafa' and 'Talk to Me', how has the journey been?
It has been a beautiful journey and process. Every song marks a different chapter of my life and a different version of myself. 'Deep Within' came from a very young, introspective place when I was 12 years old. So many learnings went on to define my focus. 'Yadein' explored nostalgia and longing, 'Bewafa' was about heartbreak and resilience, and 'Talk to Me' is probably my most vulnerable song yet. It's about longing and desire and my first English song. Looking back, I can hear my own evolution not just as an artist, but as a person.

> Every challenge has taught me something that success never could

What took you so long to release your first English single?
I've always written music in English, but I never wanted to release an English song just for the sake of it. I wanted it to feel authentic and arrive at the right time. For years, I was focused on building my career in the Indian music space and exploring Hindi and Punjabi music. 'Talk to Me' felt like the first song that truly represented where I am today - both musically and emotionally. Sometimes, the timing has to be right before the music can be.

What are the challenges faced by independent artists in India?
The biggest challenge is visibility. Film music comes with built-in audiences, marketing budgets and cultural reach that independent artists often don't have access to. Independent musicians have to be artists, marketers, content creators and entrepreneurs all at once. But I think that's changing. Audiences today are more open to discovering music outside of films, and artists have more ways than ever to reach listeners directly.

Cut to 2026. Has the music landscape changed radically?
Absolutely. The barriers to entry are lower than ever, which is both exciting and challenging. Artists can now release music independently and find audiences across the world without waiting for permission from traditional gatekeepers. At the same time, there's more noise than ever before. Talent is important, but consistency, authenticity and building a genuine connection with your audience have become equally important.

There are lessons in experiences. Your biggest takeaways as a singer?
That authenticity always wins in the long run. Trends come and go, but honesty resonates. I've also learnt that patience is one of the most underrated qualities an artist can have. Careers are built over years, not moments. Every release, every performance, every setback teaches you something valuable if you're willing to listen.

You are a successful artist in a world driven by social media. What's your advice to women singers who want to crack it?
Don't wait for permission. Create the work, put it out into the world, and keep going. Don't overthink it. Women are often taught to wait until they're fully ready, but confidence comes from action, not preparation. Focus on becoming exceptional at your craft and don't let social media metrics define your self-worth. Your talent and your voice matter far more than an algorithm.

How important is your social media following for you?
It's important because it's a direct way to communicate with people who support my work. I use it to tell stories and bring people into my creative process. Social media allows artists to share the journey behind the music, the writing process, challenges and the moments that inspire the work. It helps build a deeper relationship with listeners.

What do you consider the biggest turning point in your career?
Learning to trust my own instincts. The biggest shift happened when I realised that the artists I admire most are the ones who create from a place of conviction. Once I stopped trying to fit into expectations and started trusting my own voice, everything became much clearer.

Your training routine...
I try to keep it simple and consistent. I usually begin with breathing exercises and vocal warm-ups before moving into classical practice and scales. Even on busy days, I make sure I spend some time with my voice. Training is less about perfection and more about maintaining a relationship with your instrument.

What has been your biggest learning so far?
That outcomes are very important but never as important as the process, that goes on to define your journey and outcomes follow. The moments I value most aren't the milestones themselves but the growth that happened along the way. Every challenge has taught me something that success never could.

What's next?
I'm excited to continue exploring this new chapter as an artist. 'Talk to Me' is the beginning of a larger body of work, and I'm looking forward to releasing more English music while continuing to experiment across genres. Beyond that, I'm focused on creating meaningful work - music that connects, inspires and stays with people long after thev've heard it.

Beyond genetics: Reproductive immunology offers new hope beyond conventional IVF

Advances in fertility treatment have improved pregnancy outcomes through better embryo selection, genetic testing and personalised IVF protocols. Yet, some couples continue to experience repeated IVF failures or miscarriages despite transferring genetically normal embryos. An emerging field, reproductive immunology, is now helping doctors understand why.

"Pregnancy is unique because the embryo is genetically half from the mother and half from the father," explains Dr Ashwini M, Senior Consultant – Reproductive Medicine and High-Risk Obstetrics at Gunasheela Surgical & Maternity Hospital. "Since the paternal component is recognised as 'foreign', the mother's immune system must strike a delicate balance by accepting the embryo while continuing to protect the body from infections."

If this balance is disrupted, implantation may fail or the pregnancy may not progress, even when the embryo is healthy. Researchers are studying specialised immune cells, including Natural Killer (NK) cells, and inflammatory markers to better understand immune responses in women with recurrent pregnancy loss or repeated IVF failure.

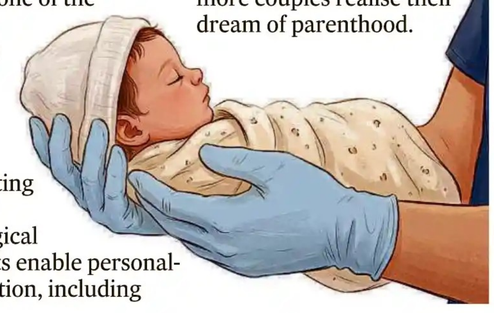
"Before considering immunological causes, we first rule out common factors such as embryo abnormalities, uterine conditions, hormonal disorders, infections and thyroid problems," says Dr Ashwini. "When these have been addressed and genetically normal embryos still fail to implant, reproductive immunology offers another important avenue for evaluation."

Although the science is still evolving, it is offering new possibilities for couples who previously had few answers. Research also suggests that chronic inflammation linked to obesity, processed foods, stress, poor sleep and sedentary lifestyles may affect reproductive health. An anti-inflammatory lifestyle with nutritious home-cooked meals, regular exercise and adequate sleep can complement medical treatment.

At Gunasheela, reproductive immunology builds on decades of innovation. Dr Sulochana Gunasheela introduced Lymphocyte Immunisation Therapy (LIT) in India in 1994, making the institution one of the country's pioneers in this field. Today, advanced in-house genetic testing and newer immunological assessments enable personalised evaluation, including Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) matching, where appropriate.

According to Dr Devika Gunasheela, Managing Director of Gunasheela Surgical & Maternity Hospital, fertility care is evolving beyond conventional treatment. "While reproductive immunology is still an emerging area of medicine, it offers fresh hope for couples facing repeated pregnancy loss or IVF failure despite receiving the best available care. Our focus is to combine decades of clinical expertise with the latest scientific advances to deliver evidence-based, personalised fertility treatment."

As part of this commitment, Gunasheela is organising a dedicated academic conference on reproductive immunology in collaboration with Sri Chakra Academy of Learning and Education to train fertility specialists in advanced immunological evaluation and therapies. By bringing together research, education and clinical expertise, the initiative aims to make this promising field more accessible and help more couples realise their dream of parenthood.



Hair style!

JAYANTHI MADHUKAR

Hair accessories are no longer just practical solutions. They can be the focal point of your outfit. The bandana is among the season's most versatile pieces. Wrapped across the crown, it keeps your hair in place on breezy, humid days while adding colour and personality. A plain bandana balances a printed outfit while a patterned one brings interest to neutral clothing. It works equally well with a sharp bob or long layers, complementing straight, curly and textured hair alike.

The claw clip remains a dependable staple. For decorative versions, think floral or sculptural designs. It elevates even the simplest hairstyle. Use one to sweep hair into a twist or secure just the top section for a relaxed look. Ponytail cuffs lend a polished finish to long, straight hair, while soft scrunchies keep longer lengths neatly tied back without pulling or creasing.

Headbands continue to make a strong case for everyday wear. Padded and embellished styles pair well with sleek, pulled-back hair, while slimmer versions create a clean understated finish. Many fashion houses now treat the headband as a signature accessory, making it as much a statement piece as a functional one.

Those who want a touch of sparkle can go for embellished hair clips. Use one to pin back a section of hair at the side or secure strands at the centre for a stylish finish.

Jagdale bags exclusive licensing rights for Argentina Football Association in India

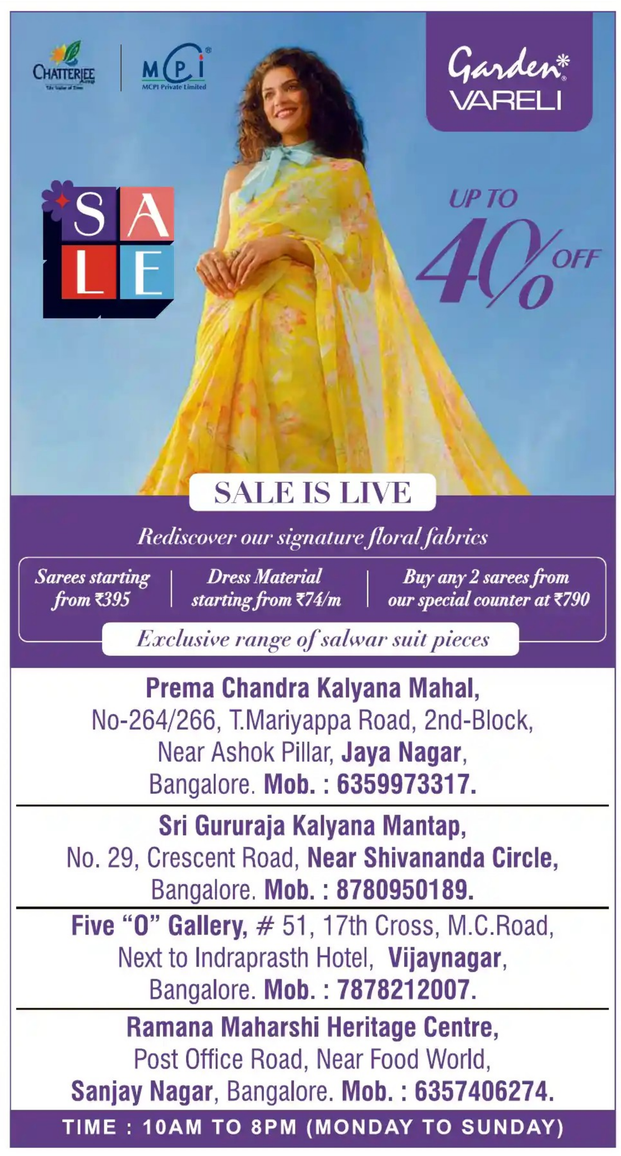
Jagdale Industries Private Limited (Jagdale) has announced its association with the Argentina Football Association (AFA) as the Official Licensee in India, securing exclusive licensing rights to develop and market AFA-branded products in the country. The collaboration brings together the global legacy of Argentine football with Jagdale's commitment to excellence, innovation and stakeholder engagement.

Jagdale's flagship brands include DART, an analgesic; MULMINA, a ready-to-drink immunity booster; and ONEL, a scientifically formulated coconut water-based hydration drink.

Rajesh Nagaraja Rao Jagdale, Chairman & Managing Director, Jagdale Industries Private Limited, said, "We are proud to partner with the Argentina Football Association. This collaboration reflects our commitment to creating meaningful value through trusted relationships, innovation, and engaging experiences for our customers, partners, healthcare professionals, and communities."

Speaking on the partnership, Leandro Petersen, Chief Commercial and Marketing Officer, Argentina Football Association, said, "We are delighted to welcome Jagdale Industries as an Official Licensee of the Argentine Football Association in India. Their standing in the Indian healthcare and wellness sector, combined with their commitment to excellence and innovation, makes them an ideal partner as AFA continues to grow its presence in one of the world's most dynamic markets."

Rajesh Nagaraja Rao Jagdale, Chairman & MD, Jagdale Industries Private Limited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Sri Gururaja Kalyana Mantap, No. 29, Crescent Road, Near Shivananda Circle, Bangalore. Mob. : 8780950189.
Five "O" Gallery, # 51, 17th Cross, M.C.Road, Next to Indraprasth Hotel, Vijaynagar, Bangalore. Mob. : 7878212007.
Ramana Maharshi Heritage Centre, Post Office Road, Near Food World, Sanjay Nagar, Bangalore. Mob. : 6357406274.
TIME : 10AM TO 8PM (MONDAY TO SUNDAY)

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd.

WORLD CHOCOLATE DAY - JULY 7

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

DID YOU KNOW?

- White chocolate isn't technically 'chocolate'. It contains cocoa butter but no cocoa solids which give chocolate its characteristic flavour and colour
- A pinch of salt makes chocolate sweeter. Salt balances bitterness and enhances chocolate's natural flavours
- Chocolate and chilli are an ancient pairing

CHOCOLATE PAIRINGS TO TRY

- Dark chocolate: Orange, raspberry, cherry, coffee, sea salt, almond and hazelnut
- Milk chocolate: Banana, peanut butter, caramel, cinnamon and vanilla
- White chocolate: Strawberry, mango, passion fruit, pistachio and matcha

PIC COURTESY: PIXI

Bavarian Chocolate Toast

KARTIKEYA RATAN, Consulting chef

What you need

- One slice of buttered brioche honey toast
- One scoop of Bavarian chocolate ice cream or plain chocolate ice cream
- Two tablespoons of dark chocolate ganache
- One tablespoon each of salted caramel, butter chocolate soil and toasted almond flakes
- A pinch of Maldon salt (or flaky sea salt)
- Edible flowers for garnish (optional)

Preparation:

Toast the brioche with butter and honey until golden brown and crisp. Spread the dark chocolate ganache evenly over the warm toast. Drizzle the salted caramel on top. Add a generous scoop of Bavarian chocolate ice cream. Sprinkle the butter chocolate soil and toasted almond flakes over it. Finish with a pinch of Maldon salt and garnish with edible flowers.

Serve immediately while the toast is warm and the ice cream is perfectly chilled.

Pure cocoa bliss!

It's time to indulge in chocolate without guilt. **Deepa Natarajan Lobo** gets four chefs to share some unique recipes to celebrate this sweet something's day

There is always something wonderfully comforting about chocolate. From being an undeniable part of life's sweetest celebrations to just being a source of comfort after a long, hard day, a hot mug of cocoa, a piece of chocolate cake or even just a plain chocolate bar can never disappoint.

World Chocolate Day, which comes on July 7, is the time to pay your tribute to an ingredient that never fails to impress. Besides those brownies and cakes, there is an endless array of dishes with cocoa waiting to be explored.

Now, the question is, 'why wait for July 7 to celebrate this happy occasion with some chocolate?' Here are four unique chocolate delights you can begin celebrating with this weekend.

Pic courtesy: Bar Sama

Chocolate Mousse with Peppercorn

VICHITA KUMAR, Chef partner

What you need

- 15 eggs (separated)
- 260 gm (about one and a half cups) of dark chocolate, chopped
- 90 gm (about half a cup) of sugar
- 45 ml (three tablespoons) of coffee

For garnish:

- Green peppercorn
- Sea salt

Preparation

Prepare a double boiler and whisk the egg yolks with the sugar until thick, pale and slightly aerated. Melt the chocolate and mix in the coffee. Fold the melted chocolate mixture into the warm egg yolk mixture until smooth.

Whip the egg whites to firm peaks. Gently fold the whipped egg whites into the chocolate mixture in batches, ensuring the mixture remains light and airy.

Portion into serving vessels and refrigerate until fully set. Sprinkle green peppercorn and sea salt, and serve.

Flourless Dark Chocolate Cake

PRADEEP SINGH, Chef de party

What you need

- 500 gm (about three cups) of dark chocolate (70 per cent cocoa or dark compound), chopped
- One and three-fourths cup of fresh cream
- Three-fourths cup plus two tablespoons of milk
- Half a cup plus two tablespoons of sugar
- Six eggs
- One teaspoon of vanilla essence

Preparation

In a saucepan, combine the milk, fresh cream and sugar. Heat gently over low flame, stirring until the sugar dissolves. Do not let it come to a rolling boil. Pour the hot cream mixture over the chopped chocolate and stir until smooth and glossy. Add the eggs and vanilla essence. Blend with a hand blender (or whisk well) until fully combined.

Pour the batter into a greased and lined eight-inch cake tin. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 160-degrees C for 55–60 minutes, or until the cake is just set with a slight wobble in the centre.

Cool completely before unmoulding and slicing.

Pic courtesy: SUZY Q

Dark Deed XL Cookie

SHREYAS BHATT, Consultant chef

What you need

- One gluten-free dark chocolate cookie
- One tablespoon each of mascarpone cheese and sour cherry compote
- Whipped Chantily cream to pipe on top

Preparation:

Place the cookie on a microwave-safe plate and warm it up for a few seconds. Layer it up with whipped Chantily cream. Layer mascarpone cheese on top. Finish with a spoon of sour cherry compote.

PIC COURTESY: NOBA

Goodness of dark chocolate

The next time you feel like having a sweet treat, why not reach out for a piece of dark chocolate? With oodles of cocoa and less sugar, this tasty snack offers essential antioxidants and minerals that can affect your health positively when consumed in moderation.

Here are some benefits:

Supports heart health: It improves blood circulation, thereby supporting heart health.

Rich in antioxidants: The antioxidants in it confer many health benefits.

A mood booster: Dark chocolate encourages the release of 'feel-good hormones' in the brain.

Provides essential minerals: It contains iron, magnesium and copper, which support several body functions.

Has less sugar content: Dark chocolate contains lesser sugar than milk chocolate.

How much should you eat?

Choose dark chocolate with at least 70 per cent cocoa and enjoy 20–30 gm (about 2-4 small squares) at a time. Like all treats, it's best enjoyed as part of a balanced diet.

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

HERE'S MY REPORT ON CAMP BEAUTIFICATION, SIR. I THINK YOU'LL LIKE IT
WHY IS IT SO THICK?
GREG + MORT WALKER
IT'S A "POP-UP" BOOK
BOING
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

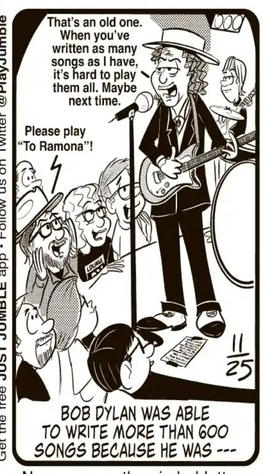
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GUHLA

CDYIE

MCTMIO

RIPLSA


That's an old one. When you've written as many songs as I have, it's hard to play them all. Maybe next time.
Please play "To Ramona"!
BOB DYLAN WAS ABLE TO WRITE MORE THAN 600 SONGS BECAUSE HE WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answers: LAUGH DICEY COMMIT SPIRAL
Bob Dylan was able to write more than 600 songs because he was — ACCOMPLISHED

HITORI-153

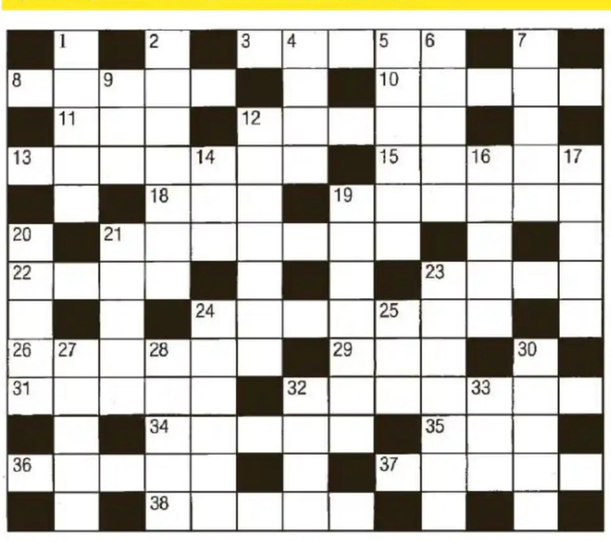
1	3	8	4	5	3	2	3
2	8	1	6	3	1	2	7
8	3	5	3	7	6	4	3
4	3	6	7	3	2	5	3
6	2	3	5	3	6	8	1
5	3	7	2	3	8	3	6
3	4	7	1	8	5	7	2
3	6	4	3	2	3	3	2

SOLUTION for HITORI-153

■	3	■	2	■	4	6	■
2	7	5	8	1	■	4	3
6	■	8	■	2	7	■	5
1	8	■	3	5	■	2	6
■	2	5	■	7	6	3	4
3	6	4	7	■	5	■	8
7	■	1	■	6	■	8	2
■	2	3	5	4	8	■	1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 154



EASY

ACROSS
3 Not blunt (5)
8 Loaded (5)
10 Of a town (5)
11 Religious sister (3)
12 Freight (5)
13 Patella (7)
15 Garden figure (5)
18 Knock (3)
19 Latitude (6)
21 Corpse (7)
22 High (4)
23 House type (4)
24 Rattling noise (7)
26 Crave (6)
29 Afflict (3)
31 Backdrop (5)
32 Plant (7)
34 Nude (5)
35 Lettuce (3)
36 Stories (5)
37 Total (5)
38 Brings up (5)

DOWN
1 Marriage proclamation (5)
2 Officer (7)
4 Pile (4)
5 Rugby (6)
6 Liable (5)
7 Greek letter (5)
9 Owing (3)
12 Competent (7)
14 Bounder (3)
16 Possessor (5)
17 Eagle's nest (5)
19 Gymnast's costume (7)
20 Fasteners (5)
21 Shut (5)
23 Chooses (7)
24 Fold (6)
25 Neckwear item (3)
27 Splendour (5)
28 Archery target ring (5)
30 Skinflint (5)
32 Dread (4)
33 Drunkard (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 Nowadays, choose to be parental (5)
8 Points a friend out for punishment! (5)
10 A leftover admirer? (5)
11 A contrapuntal piece with impact (3)
12 Early crash in a race (5)
13 Thinks mathematically? (7)
15 Dance music with beat and energy (5)
18 Clean river? (3)
19 In a plot, a bit of thinking that's overdue (6)
21 Answers that one can make a pile in the reserves! (7)
22 It can stop the pipes freezing in the attic (4)
23 Lover boy? (4)
24 Alarm by shaking rattles (7)
26 A street light in the wrong place? (6)
29 It's colourful and huge, but not grand (3)
31 All wrong about some boy being faithful (5)
32 Sweetened as urged, possibly (7)
34 Acting like a wild dingo (5)
35 A mug of juice? (3)
36 Cook, however, had no such ship! (5)
37 A suitable amount of decimation (5)
38 Strikes out with fresh heart, one gathers (5)

DOWN
1 Worth resetting the timer (5)
2 Shakespeare character, a spiteful woman about to whimper (7)
4 Cheats certain females (4)
5 Illustrations of faces? (6)
6 Just the girl to make hay? (5)
7 As a rule, grin wryly about a close finish (5)
9 Talk so much that you sound hoarse (3)
12 The truth about wildest Italy (7)
14 Material in the fireplace (3)
16 In the recess, it's nice to tour Southend (5)
17 In a strangely uneven manner (5)
19 In wrestling, put up with the pressure (4,3)
20 Swimming school (5)
21 Annoyed with a deserter failing to commence duty? (5)
23 Happy to get a closed shop rented (7)
24 Did she love to be surrounded by distracted males? (6)
25 Draw a vessel (3)
27 The way down (5)
28 Navigational aid for a lady in a posh car (5)
30 As far as one can sink? (5)
32 Fracture one's fingers? (4)
33 What the train did from Grand Central (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 154

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, AD-opt 8, P-EN-al 10, L-over 11, Rap 12, Relay 13, Figures 15, Tan-go 18, Lea 19, Be-hin-d 21, Re-plie-s 22, Heat 23, Phil 24, Startle 26, A-St.-ray 29, Hu-e 31, I-oy-al 32, Sugared 34, Doing 35, Sap 36, Steam 37, Tenth 38, R-e-aps.
DOWN: 1, Merit 2, Ca-pule-t 4, Does 5, Plates 6, To-yah 7, R-eign 9, Nag 12, Re-ality 14, Rep 16, Nic-h-e 17, Oddly 19, Bear hug 20, Shoal 21, Rat-ty 23, P-leased 24, Sal-O-me 25, Tug 27, South 28, R-Ada-R 30, Depth 32, Snap 33, Ran.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Sharp 8, Laden 10, Urban 11, Nun 12, Cargo 13, Kneecap 15, Gnome 18, Rap 19, Leeway 21, Cadaver 22, Tall 23, Semi 24, Clatter 26, Desire 29, Ail 31, Scene 32, Freesia 34, Naked 35, Cos 36, Tales 37, Utter. 38, Rears.
DOWN: 1, Banns 2, General 4, Head 5, Rugger 6, Prone 7, Gamma 9, Due 12, Capable 14, Cad 16, Owner 17, Eyrie 19, Leotard 20, Studs 21, Close 23, Selects 24, Crease 25, Tie 27, Eclat 28, Inner 30, Miser 32, Fear 33, Sot.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. FASHION

Food does not stay fresh for long in the rainy season. This is why freshly-cooked food is advised

EAT RIGHT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

FOR A SAFE MONSOON

- Prevent mosquitoes from breeding around your home. Use mosquito-proofing
- Avoid eating exposed food. Freshly-cooked home food is ideal
- Drink only bottled water, especially when outdoors
- Change out of wet clothes, shoes as soon as possible

FOR A FIT MONSOON

- Support your immune system with a daily diet rich in protein
- Choose seasonal fruits and vegetables for your meals
- Stay well-hydrated even though you don't feel as thirsty as in summer
- Adequate sleep helps as it supports your immunity

Monsoon **Care**

Face the rains in style

One simple and effective way to keep those nagging monsoon infections away is good hand hygiene. You can avoid many infections such as the common cold, influenza and diarrhea with some easy care. All you need to do is keep your hands clean and avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes.

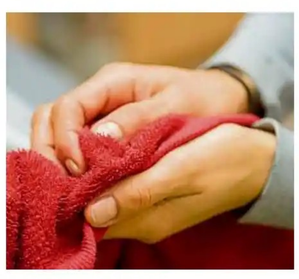
Wash hands frequently

Regardless of whether you are outdoors or indoors, wash your hands frequently. Remember, even indoor environments carry germs. Time it for effective hygiene – every one and half hours etc. Use a soap with anti-germ properties and wash hands in hot, running water.

SANITISING HELPS

In the event you don't have access to water or soap when outdoors and cannot wash your hands as often as needed, sanitise them. Carry a bottle of sanitiser with you always. Ideally, go for an alcohol-based one (recommended alcohol content is 60 per cent).

Keep hands dry



Germs breed and spread more easily on wet surfaces. If you are outdoors when it is raining, dry your hands often. After washing, dry them thoroughly using a towel. Try and keep your hands free of moisture all the time. It also helps to keep your fingernails well-clipped.

AVOID TOUCHING SURFACES

It is ideal to refrain from touching objects like banisters, handles and other surfaces in public spaces. These surfaces, touched constantly by a large number of people, harbour germs. If it is unavoidable, sanitise your hands frequently while outdoors.

Face the rains in style

Monsoon **Ready**

Shilpi Madan has some tips to help you stay fresh all day long in the rainy season

Move aside limp locks, sticky skin and crumpled clothes. Make your monsoon wardrobe an absolute hit with strategic picks in clothes and accessories to rule like a showstopper even when the rain brings in the lull.

Go light

Choose lightweight fabrics in tops and trousers. Mid-length dresses, capris, easy-dry picks in rayon, georgette and crepe let your skin breathe and stay cool as the humidity clambers up.
PoV: Skip satins and silks as they cling to the skin adding to the sweaty quotient and also get stained easily.

Bright is the way

Monsoon brings in the greys. Skip the afternoon blacks this season and prop up your wardrobe with a bright splash-out in corals and teals for happy pops. For formal outings, choose deeper jewelled hues in marsala, navy blue or olive green.

PoV: Stay with one colour pop in your entire appearance to avoid visual confusion

Right foot forward

Skip the boots and fancy covers. Make way for waterproof footwear in rubber-soled slides. Choose shoes that let your toes breathe and dry easily. Crocs and synthetic loafers allow you to navigate puddles easily. Coated canvas bags cocoon your essentials easily in sudden showers too.
PoV: Keep your phone in a separate waterproof pouch inside your bag. Skip using haversacks during the rains.

Hair style

Hair style is a coup to achieve when it pours. Skip leave-in conditioners as their density tends to weigh your locks down. Make use of lightweight serums to tame the frizz. It is a good idea to use heat as sparingly as possible on your strands – this means minimising the use of tongs, irons and hairdryers
PoV: Scoop your mane up in a pony-tail, and make use of hair bands to hold your locks off your face.

Splash on

Carry a light fragrance spray in your bag, along with a lip butter stick and sunscreen. It is easier to renew application in these formats when you are on the move to stay cool and fresh all the time.
PoV: A floral face mist works wonders in zapping away the impact of humidity, especially if you are on the move the entire day.

MAKE-UP AND SENSITIVE SKIN: FRIEND OR FOE?

Glow **On**

If your skin is sensitive, you need to be selective with the products you use and ensure you maintain a healthy skincare regimen, says dermatologist **Dr Mukta Sachdev**

A question dermatologists have been asked countless times - 'doctor, can make-up damage my skin'? The good news is make-up itself is not the enemy. In fact, when chosen wisely and used correctly, make-up can be perfectly safe - even for people with sensitive skin. The problem arises when you use products that are not suited to your skin type or when you ignore basic skincare habits.

Today's cosmetics are very different from those available years ago. Many modern formulations are designed to be lightweight, non-comedogenic (meaning they won't clog pores) and enriched with skin-friendly ingredients. Some foundations even contain moisturisers, antioxidants and SPF, offering more than just cosmetic coverage.

However, if you have sensitive skin, you need to be a little more selective.

Sensitive skin tends to react easily to products, weather changes, pollution and even stress. People with conditions such as eczema, rosacea, acne-prone skin or allergies often experience redness, itching, burning or stinging after using certain cosmetics. My first piece of advice is simple - don't be swayed by attractive packaging or social media trends. What works for an influencer may not work for your skin.

When shopping for make-up, look for products labelled 'fragrance-free', 'hypoallergenic', and 'non-comedogenic'. Fragrances are among the most common causes of cosmetic-related skin irritation. The fewer unnecessary ingredients a product contains, the lower the chance of a reaction.

Mineral make-up is an excellent option for sensitive skin. Ingredients such as zinc oxide and titanium dioxide are generally well-tolerated and can help calm rather than irritate the skin. Mineral foundations are usually lighter, breathable and less likely to trigger break-outs.

Another mistake people often make is poor make-up hygiene. Make-up brushes and sponges can become breeding grounds for bacteria if not cleaned regularly. This can lead to acne flare-ups, skin irritation and even infections. Washing brushes every week and replacing old make-up products on time can make a significant difference to skin health.

Equally important is removing make-up before going to bed. No matter how tired you are, sleeping with make-up on is a habit worth breaking. Overnight, make-up mixes with oil, sweat and environmental pollutants, increasing the risk of clogged pores and dull-looking skin. A gentle cleanser followed by a moisturiser can help maintain a healthy skin barrier.

If you have particularly reactive skin, always perform a patch test before trying a new product. Apply a small amount behind the ear or on the inner arm and observe the area for a few days.

The bottom line? Make-up is not harmful when used thoughtfully. The best make-up for sensitive skin is one that feels comfortable, causes no irritation and allows your skin to breathe. Healthy skin and make-up are not mutually exclusive - they can go hand-in-hand when you choose wisely and care for your skin consistently. After all, the goal of make-up should be to enhance your confidence, not compromise your skin health.

The Immune Code 1.0 to spotlight emerging frontiers in reproductive immunology

Gunasheela Global Knowledge Conclave 2026, in collaboration with the Sri Chakra Academy of Learning and Education (SCALE), will host The Immune Code 1.0, a two-day conference on reproductive immunology on July 25 and 26 at the Shangri-La, Bengaluru. The conference aims to bring together leading fertility specialists, researchers and clinicians to explore the growing role of immunology in improving fertility outcomes.

The scientific programme will focus on recurrent implantation failure (RIF), recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL), immune mechanisms in pregnancy, uterine Natural Killer (NK) cells, KIR/HLA interactions, autoimmune disorders, endometriosis, thyroid disorders and the latest evidence- based immunomodulatory therapies. International and national experts will deliver keynote lectures, scientific sessions and panel discussions.

The conference will also feature hands-on workshops on Lymphocyte Immunisation Therapy (LIT), including live demonstrations of LIT processing and practical sessions on interpreting immunological investigation reports for clinical practice. Organisers say the initiative is designed to strengthen clinical expertise, encourage scientific collaboration and advance personalised fertility care by translating the latest research into everyday reproductive medicine.

GUNASHEELA GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE CONCLAVE - 2026

Let your **tie** speak

A tie can say a lot about you and even work as a conversation-starter, writes **Swatee Jog**

Style **File**

Head of the Department of Management Studies at a Pune-based university, Dr Shardul Joshi, dressed daily in a crisp suit, stands out for his colourful, printed ties - a legacy from his prior corporate stints. While he comes across as a serious, academic person, his ties speak a different language. "I have travelled the world in my earlier jobs and always collected ties depicting local themes" he says. His collection, numbering in dozens, comes in handy as an ice-breaker many times. "In any conference or meeting, my tie is a conversation-starter and I like it that way. When I wear a tie from Japan, Russia, Italy or Peru, I am not merely dressing up. I am carrying memories, people and experiences around my neck", he says with a smile.

It's about 'you'

While a business suit conveys formality, shoes hint at taste and watches speak of attitude, a necktie speaks about you. A tie can reveal a person's humour, taste, profession, travels, passions, politics or even mood on that day.

A tie can feature abstract art, ancient maps, jazz musicians, endangered birds or mathematical equations, immediately elevating it to a new level.

Where to get that perfect tie?

Collectors around the world are increasingly hunting for rare and unusual ties. Vintage silk ties from the 1940s, hand-painted pieces, limited-edition designer collaborations and commemorative ties released during major events have become prized possessions. Many of these pieces are inherited by sons and grandsons as heirlooms.

Some collectors seek wearable art. Ties inspired by the paintings of Vincent van Gogh transform 'Starry Night' into flowing silk patterns. Salvador Dalí's imagination has inspired ties featuring melting clocks and dreamlike imagery.

Museums across Europe and America often sell art-themed ties based on masterpieces by Monet, Picasso and M C Escher. Disney themed ties instantly change the mood in a room.

"There is no such thing as a boring tie collection", remarks Ajit Jaali, a businessman from Bengaluru and a veteran menswear enthusiast. "Every collection becomes a biography", he says. Rare finds often emerge from unexpected places. Antique markets, vintage clothing stores, estate sales, museum gift shops, airport boutiques and even forgotten family wardrobes have yielded treasures.

Corporate professionals, diplomats, professors and entrepreneurs often build collections unintentionally as conference souvenirs, gifts from friends abroad, university ties, club ties and commemorative editions accumulate into personal archives.

British novelist Oscar Wilde once observed, "A well-tied tie is the first serious step in life". More than a Century later, the statement continues to resonate. A tie offers individuality. You must, however, remember that a bold tie can be a distraction and hence must be used carefully. Among all the silent pieces in a man's wardrobe, the necktie remains the one that speaks.

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PRO TIP

Go for reed diffusers instead of strong candles in this season. Continuous fragrance is more pleasant than strong bursts

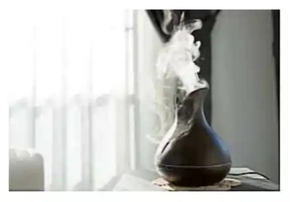
WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

MONSOON FRIENDLY BLEND

A popular combo for the season – three drops each of lemon, cedarwood and lemongrass fragrance in the dispenser. It gives your spaces a fresh and clean feel in the humid days. It is a light aroma that will not overwhelm in small spaces.

IT'S CHAI TIME

Tea-inspired fragrances are popular in the monsoon months. They give you a sophisticated and fresh feel without overwhelming. These are ideal for both living spaces and home offices. They help you stay focussed on dull, rainy days.



Aroma Therapy

Citrus for freshness

On rainy days, fragrances of lemon, orange and grape give your interiors a bright and clean feel. A few drops of these scents in the dispenser gives your spaces freshness for a well-ventilated feel. They are a welcome contrast to the dull grey sky outside.

WARMTH OF CEDARWOOD

This is a dry and woody scent. It complements the rainy weather well. It is a good way to offset the damp smell in rooms that cannot be well-ventilated. Go for cedarwood fragrances around closed racks and storage spaces in this season.

LIVELY LEMONGRASS

This is a sharp aroma that boosts your mood on dull, rainy days. It is advised in humid spaces. Lemongrass fragrances are commonly used in the kitchen, foyer and large living rooms. It can also be a good choice in spaces that tend to be relatively colder.

Eucalyptus feels airy

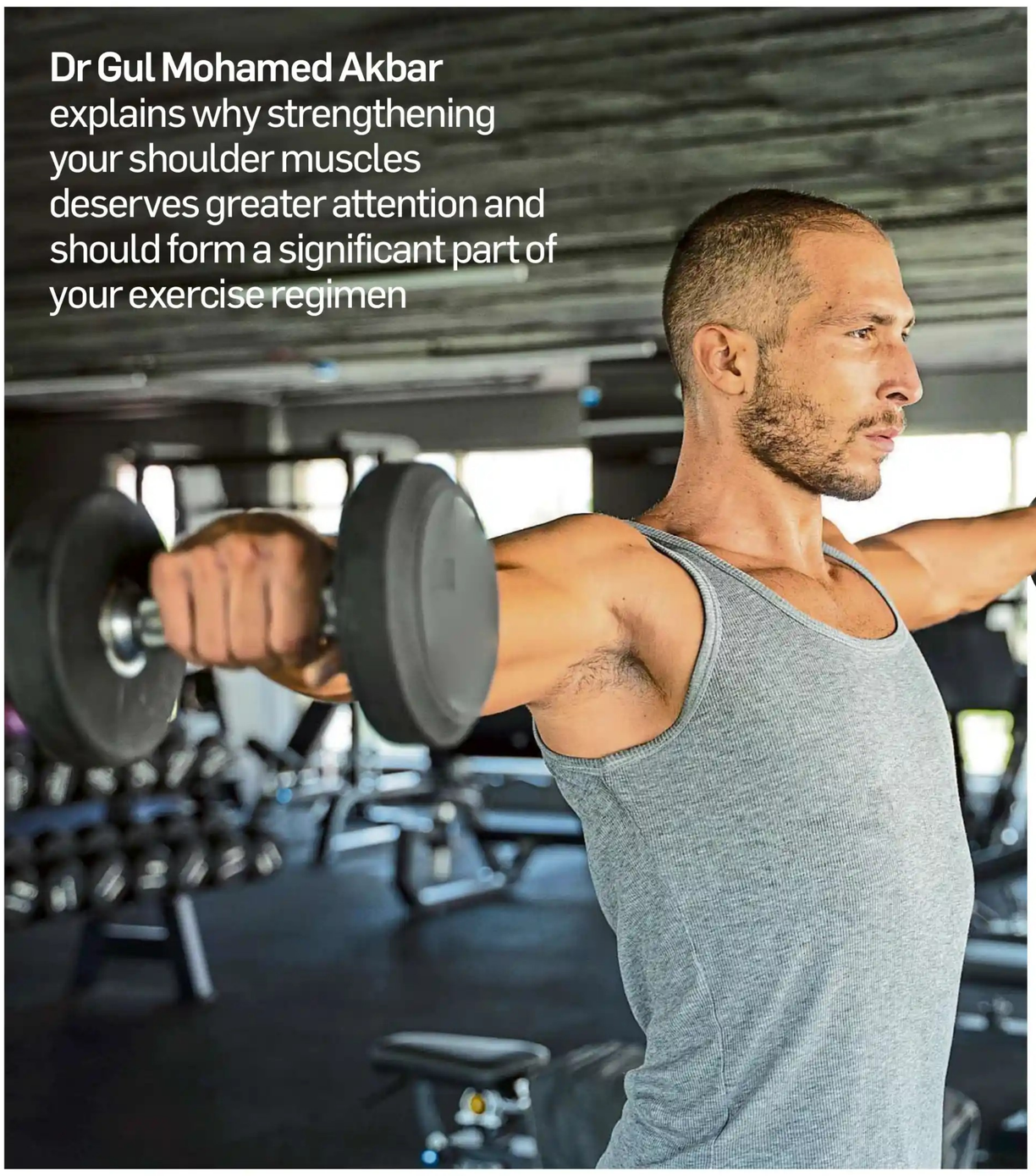
This aroma gives your interiors an airy feel. It is a pleasant scent and is advised in areas such as near the shoe rack. It serves your interiors well in spaces where you leave wet shoes, umbrellas and raincoats, and are prone to dampness.

FRESH WARDROBES

Your wardrobes, that remain closed all the time, tend to acquire a damp and unpleasant smell which transfers to the clothes stored inside. Place scented sachets in wardrobes to avoid the unpleasant odour. Lavender, cedar or dried rosemary sachets will keep your wardrobes smelling pleasant during the humid months.

Strong shoulders enhance MOBILITY, STABILITY & QUALITY OF LIFE

Dr Gul Mohamed Akbar explains why strengthening your shoulder muscles deserves greater attention and should form a significant part of your exercise regimen



Fighting Fit

In the pursuit of fitness, shoulder muscles are often overlooked despite playing a vital role in strength, mobility and overall physical health. Unlike the chest or abdominal muscles, shoulders are not always a mirror-facing part of the physique, leading many people to neglect them during exercise routines. However, recent research highlights the importance of training shoulder muscles at least twice a week to maintain strength, stability and long-term joint health.

Historically, shoulder strength was considered essential by warriors and athletes alike. Strong shoulders provided the power needed to support and initiate movements of the upper body, contributing to both strength and endurance. Today, the importance of shoulder fitness remains just as relevant, not only for athletic performance but also for everyday health and functionality.

A combination of broad, well-developed shoulders and a slim waist has long-been regarded as a hallmark of an athletic physique. In fact, the shoulder-to-waist ratio is often one of the first indicators of physical fitness and body symmetry. After the face, the shoulders are the most noticeable features of the body, helping define posture, frame and overall appearance.

Modern lifestyles, however, pose significant challenges to shoulder health. Millions of office workers, students and professionals spend long hours hunched over computers and mobile devices. This prolonged poor posture places excessive strain on the shoulders and spine, contributing to muscle tightness, reduced mobility and other health concerns. Over time, these habits can accelerate physical degeneration and negatively affect overall well-being.

Older people face additional challenges. Age-related wear and tear of cartilage, tendons and surrounding tissues can restrict shoulder movement, often leading to painful conditions such as frozen shoulder. This condition significantly limits mobility, particularly during overhead movements, affecting daily activities and quality of life.

Medical studies identify the shoulder as one of the body's most mobile, yet vulnerable, joints. Capable of moving through an exceptionally wide range of motion, the shoulder depends heavily on strong muscles and tendons for stability. Without adequate muscular support, the risk of injury and dysfunction increases substantially.

Exercises for strong shoulders

Here are some exercises using dumbbells that will keep your shoulders strong and flexible. Their weight should challenge you, while you don't over-strain lifting them. You can find demos of these exercises online.

Front deltoids
- Forward raises
- Overhead raises

Side deltoids
- Lateral raises
- Upright rows

Rear deltoids
- Face pulls
- Rows
- Reverse flyes

Rotator cuff muscles
- Cable external rotations
- Resistance band external rotations

Benefits of strong shoulders

Developing shoulder strength offers benefits far beyond appearance. Strong shoulders enhance overall upper-body strength by improving the functions of the chest, back and arm muscles. They promote better posture, helping you stand taller and move more confidently.

Well-conditioned shoulder muscles also play a crucial role in injury prevention. By supporting the neck, upper back and shoulder joints, they help maintain proper alignment and reduce the risk of strains, dislocations and other injuries.

Athletes benefit from stronger shoulders through increased power, speed and efficiency in movement. Everyday activities such as lifting, carrying and reaching overhead also become easier and safer.

Ultimately, shoulder work-outs are not merely an aesthetic choice. They are essential for maintaining mobility, protecting joint health, preventing injuries and building a strong, capable body. In an age dominated by sedentary lifestyles, giving shoulder training the attention it deserves is one of the most important investments in long-term health and fitness.

Colour code to keep your chin up

Colours have a bearing on your state of mind. You can harness their properties by simply choosing the right shade as an accent around you. Yoga therapist **Krupa Patel** shares the impact of six common hues

Hue View

What's life without a dash of colour? In everything you do, there's the element of colour as a subtext – in your choice of clothes, home furnishings and even in food. What many people do not understand is their connection with colours. Colours do more than create or enhance outer appearance. They have a bearing on your state of mind too without you being conscious of their influence. For example, colours can lower stress, have a calming effect or boost your energy level.

So, why not use colours to your advantage? Here are six hues and the impact they have on you.

Yellow

This colour is associated with the rising sun. Just as sunrise is the beginning of a cycle, yellow prompts the mind to transit from rest to action. It makes you more alert and helps you stay focussed on your tasks. It enhances your happiness quotient and self-esteem.

Those who struggle to wake up in the morning should have yellow around. It is also good for those who need the motivation to keep pursuing their goals.

Orange

It's a beautiful colour you see at dusk when the sun merges into the night sky. Orange is a blend of red (passion and intensity) and yellow (happiness, optimism and joy). This blend gets orange to enhance the playfulness, social interaction and warmth in you. While red can make you more aggressive, orange prompts your mind to act with purpose, rather than impulsively.

If you shy away from interaction, orange is the colour that will help you shed inhibition and perk up your social life.

Green

This is the easiest colour for the eye to process. Green is associated with Nature's nurturing quality and is therefore linked to empathy and care. Seeking a connection with Nature has always been a human tendency, especially when under pressure. Green creates a balance between your mind and emotion, and thus lowers your stress level. It helps you relax when you are agitated and slows you down when your thoughts are racing.

If your mind is over-active, green is the colour for you.

Blue

This is the colour of the infinite sky and ocean. It confers a sense of authority, derived from the vastness of the sky and oceans. The unfathomable depths of the oceans and expanse of the sky lend blue an association with strength.

If you feel low at times and not 'in control of the situation you are in', this is the colour for you. It's recommended for those in positions of authority and need the power of conviction to take major decisions.

White

This is the colour of the moon and signifies peace. White creates a sense of calm, enhances focus and denotes purity. It strips away the 'visual noise' and allows the mind to slow down. Essentially, this colour depicts a blank canvas. It means absence of clutter and chaos. It acts as a visual reset.

Since white is a cooling colour, those who need a clear mind and those who are in positions of authority and need to take calculated decisions will benefit from it.

Black

This colour is symbolic of the dark night sky. Darkness represents danger. Empty space and darkness are associated with threat and danger from the unknown. Wearing black is therefore seen as an attempt to stay invisible. It allows you to be in a crowded space while maintaining emotional distance.

Those with stress, anxiety and depression should avoid wearing black.

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"COMMERCIAL BUILDING For Sale Kanakapura Road near Konanakunta Metro Station ₹3.35 Crore. "Sri.Ganesh Estate" 9845286505"

Commercial Land

K R Puram

FOR SALE 37000 sft Plot BBMP Khata with clear title at KR PURAM Junction. Next to Market, Clear Documents. Immediate Possession. Rs.12000/- per sft. Task Reality 9845005855

Commerical

Mysore Road

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE
(16,000 Sft Builup) on 67x250 Site Area
MYSORE - BANGALORE MAIN ROAD, MADDUR

COMMERCIAL CONVERTED Muncipal A Katha
with 200HP Power, Rent Income: 4-5Lakhs PM, Sale Price 12Cr. Brokers Excuse
Call: 9845021497

Industrial & Factory

Kanakapura Road

FOR SALE 1,05,000 Sft Industrial Converted Land KIADB Phase 2 HAROHALLI INDUSTRIAL AREA Rs.3000/- Per Sft. TASK REALITY: 9845005855

Villas/Bunglows

Sarjapur Road

4 BEDROOM boutique villa with attached bathrooms + staff room with toilet on an East facing 3000 Sq.Ft site off Sarjapur Road, Bangalore. Contact 9740037445, 9845538518.

REAL ESTATE BUYING

Joint Development

South

WANTED PROPERTIES For JV 2400sqft and Above, Outrate Purchase 5 Acers & Above Suitable: For Apartment, Layout Farmland Devolopment: 9886412229

PROPERTY CORNER

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT
- Ideal for Offices, Clinics, Showroom, Full or partial building rent out.
- Building area G+5 floors 900 sqft per Floor
- Elevetor Facility is Available.
- Toilet On Each Floor.
- 6000 Litres Water sump, BWSSB facility

Address: 10/2, 5th Main, 8th Cross, Chamrajpete, Bangalore-560018
Contact +91 79759 94583 +91 88674 00643

Sites

Anjanapura

WANTED BDA SITES & BBMP SITES. COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL, ANJANAPURA, BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE, NPKL, JP NAGAR 8TH/ 9TH PHASE. BCC, BCMC LAYOUT, NARAYAN NAGAR. ANY MEASUREMENT. CONTACT: 9880300791

Vishweshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30,30x40,40x60 50x80 BDA sites VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT,BSK 6th-stage KEMPEGOWDA-LAYOUT.Contact: 9844533371/ 9341733480

Banashankari

WANTED BANASHANKARI 6th STAGE, ANY BLOCK, 30x40 ANY FACE, DIRECT REGISTRATION. CALL: MANOJ - 9731410616

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Commercial

1 ACRE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY for RENT
ON JIGANI Link Main Road Next to Gail Gas Station, Suitable for Showroom, Ware House.
Call : 9845582152

TO-LET OFFICE Space 2000Sft Built up Area Available for Rent in Madhavanagar, Adj:Race Course, Bengaluru Contact No-8296346977

House

FOR RENT 2BHK 1st Floor Portion in 6th Block Koramangla. Contact 9845073898.

TO-LET 2 BHK Available at HAL 3rd Stage, Indiranagar, Contact: 78291 22658/ 99456 23424

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Drivers

WANTED DRIVERS providing Driver Service/ Drivers with own vehicles. Contact: 8123878250/ 9945588841.

REQUIRED COMMERCIAL Driver (4 Wheeler) for Swastik Air Conditioners. Age limit Below 45 Years. Jayanagar Bangalore Contact: 6364940675/ 9739094009

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Venugopal T R,** R/at # 205, 9th B Main Road, 1st Block, HRBR Layout, Banaswadi, Kalyan Nagar post, Bengaluru - 560043, have changed my minor son's name from **TARUN T V** to **TARUN RAMACHANDRAN T V** vide affidavit dated 03.07.2026 before notary Y.R. Chandrasekar, Bengaluru. Henceforth he shall be called as **TARUN RAMACHANDRAN T V** only

I, VENKATESAIAH PULLAIAH CHETTY SANNUTHI, residing at Bengaluru-20 have changed my name as VENKATESHAIAH PULLAIAH CHETTY SANNUTHI, vide affidavit dated 03/07/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

I, NAGARJUN K, residing at Bengaluru-64, have changed my name as NAGARJUNA KRISHNAPPA, vide affidavit dated 03/07/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

I, SRI. GIRI MALLANGOUDA PATIL, S/o Mallangouda Patil, aged about 51 years, permanently r/at #314, Purva Paradise, A302, 3rd Main, 7th Cross, Near Canara Bank, Domlur, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560071, have changed my minor daughter's name from VRUNDA to VRUNDA PATIL, vide affidavit dated 3/7/2026 before Arun R Naik Advocate and Notary Bangalore

I. SRI. GIRI MALLANGOUDA PATIL, S/o Mallangouda Patil, aged about 51 years, permanently r/at #314, Purva Paradise, A302, 3rd Main, 7th Cross, Near Canara Bank, Domlur, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560071, have changed my minor son's name from GOPAL to GOPAL PATIL, vide affidavit dated 3/7/2026 before Arun R Naik Advocate and Notary Bangalore

I, RAHATH Unnisa W/o Mohammed Shafi aged about 64 Years Resident of #842, Pakirwada Kolar City. Have changed my name to Rahat Unnisa vide affidavit dated 03.07.2026 before notary M. Ramalinge Gowda Kolar. Henceforth I shall be called as Rahat Unnisa only.

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Small space, big benefits: Give your balcony an aesthetic makeover

Most often, balconies in apartments are used just to dry clothes, or as a storage space. But, a balcony comes with a lot of potential to turn into one of your favourite spots at home. Be it a spot for morning coffee, evening relaxation, or a mini garden retreat, even the smallest balcony can be transformed into a stylish and functional space with a few thoughtful upgrades. Here are some simple steps for a makeover.

Start with a vision

First things first, decide on how you want to use your balcony. Do you want to turn it into a cute hangout spot, a reading nook that's cosy and calm, a green space for the home or a place to sip on some coffee with your loved ones? Having a clear idea will help you with the way you design the space and not leave it feeling too cramped.

Bring in some life with greenery

Even if your plan isn't to turn it into a mini-garden, nothing says fresh and peaceful like plants; it helps breathe life into the balcony. Worried about space? Opt for a vertical garden, hanging planters or pots mounted on the rails, instead of potted plants, In fact, you can even plant some herbs that can be of use to you, in the kitchen, along with some low - maintenance plants if this is your first rodeo with plants. In that case, stick to low - maintenance varieties like snake plants, pothos and succulents.

Smart and compact furniture for the win

Balconies don't come with a lot of space, but that doesn't mean you can't make it look glam with some furniture. Since every inch matters, foldable chairs and tables, stackable stools, and storage benches are your best friends, as it offers both functionality and flexibility. If you're looking to redecorate within a budget, then wooden pallets are your best bet, as it's both cheap and sturdy.

Add lights for some warmth and colour

Warm, yellow lights are a game-changer when it comes to turning your balcony into a cosy nook, almost instantly. Opt for string lights, lanterns, solar-powered lamps, or LED candles to create a warm and welcoming ambience, turning the space into a different and beautiful space that you can enjoy, long after the sun sets.

Don't ignore the flooring

Sure, the plants, furniture and lighting will do wonders to your balcony, but if you want to take it to the next step, you need to have a plan for your flooring, too. Be it fake grass mats lined with pebbles around, or interlocking tiles with a wooden finish, these can instantly make the area feel more polished and inviting. These simple additions also help define the space and add a touch of personality.

Pay attention to privacy

Now that you're going to be spending a lot more time on your balcony, make sure that you have your privacy, especially if it overlooks a busy street or into some-one's home. Bamboo screens, decorative partitions, outdoor curtains, or tall potted plants can provide a sense of seclusion without compromising on style.

The small touches that actually matter

Cushions, rugs and throws add some love to the balcony. Also, some artwork, wind chimes, a small coffee table, or even a bird feeder can create a space that feels uniquely yours. You can also create a small corner within the balcony for your pet, if you have one, so you both can spend some quality time in the balcony, taking in the lovely Bengaluru weather.

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(Bade Pandit Maharaj Saheb)

Auspicious Presence
Simhasattvashali Param Pujya Gacchadhipati
Shrimad Vijay Yugbhushan Surishwarji Maharaja
(Pandit Maharaj Saheb)

5 July

6:30 am - Samaiya
Mahavir Dharmashala

9:00 am - Shri Shakrastav Abhishek
Mahavir Dharmashala

2:30 pm - Cloth Coloring Ceremony
Sri Gunvardhak Shwetambar Murtipujak Jain Sangh

7:30 pm - Vidai with Mananbhai Sanghvi
Freedom Park

6 July

9:00 am - Varshidaan Procession
Sri Gunvardhak Shwetambar Murtipujak Jain Sangh

11:00 am - Guru Vadhamana
Mahavir Dharmashala

2:00 pm - Women's Sanjhi Program
Mahavir Dharmashala

4:00 pm - Antim Vayana
Mahavir Dharmashala

7:00 pm - Sandhya Bhakti
Sri Gunvardhak Shwetambar Murtipujak Jain Sangh

Mumukshu
Shri Shailbhai Shah

7 July

4:30 am
Grand Diksha Ceremony
Accompanied by Sanibhai Shah
Freedom Park

Mumukshu
Smt. Nirmalaben Dedhia

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